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Gaelic Athletic Association
Year Book 1978



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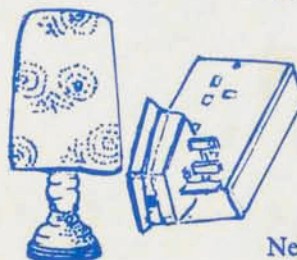
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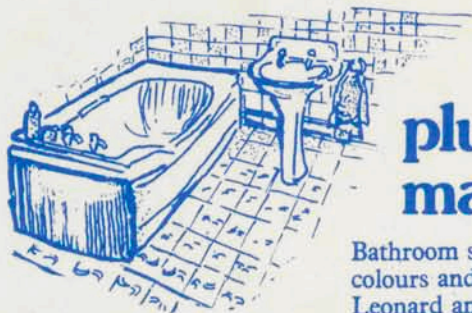
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Tipperary

Gaelic Athletic Association

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COVER PHOTO

Our cover photo shows Tipperary's youngest Hurling Chmapions, Toomevara Under-12 Hurlers, County Champions 1977.

1st. Row, l to r. : D. Farrell, J. Quigley, W. Delaney, J. Ryan, J. Connolly, T. W. Browne, J. Connolly.

2nd. Row, l. to r. : C. Murphy, G. Galvin, J. King, D. Galvin, J. Murphy, S. Tierney, B. Spillane, J. Kennedy.

3rd. Row, l. to r. : B. Bergin, M. Murphy, R. Brislane, J. Delaney, N. Egan, E. Spillane, L. O'Flaherty.

4th. Row, l. to r. : M. Kennedy, J. Ryan, M. Harty, P. King (captain), J. Grace, P. J. Brislane, L. Nolan.

PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Publishers wish to thank all those clubs and officials who supplied photographs used in this publication.

In particular we would like to thank : Mike Hoare Photographer, Lattin, Co. Tipperary for page 19 photo; Tom Meehan, 39 Main Street, Cashel, for photos on pages 8, 15, 67 (both), and 71; Ed. K. O'Shea, Croke Street, Thurles for photos on pages 3, 55, 61, 63, (both), 65 (both), 69 (both), and 75; Eric Campbell, The Mills, Templemore, for page 10 photo.

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Introduction

Os rud e gobhfuil an bliain seo ag teacht chun deire, ta áthas mor orm go bhfuil seans agam buiochas a thabhart do gach éinne a chabhraig linn i dTiobrad Arann i rith na bliana. Bliain an mhaith a bhi againn, ché nach bhuil ár nainm i measc na condae a bhuaidh na cluiche móra agus nuair a leidhinn sibh an Bliainiris seo, cífidh sibh go bhuil an-bhród orainn mar an pháirt a glacamar in iomachtaí Cumann Luthchleas Gael i rith 1977.

Cuirim fáilte don Bliainiris seo agus ta suil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitheamh as na rudai ata scríofa ag go leor daoine: fe an bhliain agus na hiomachtaí a bhi pairteach againn.

While the great feats of Cork and Dublin on the hurling and football fronts during 1977 contrast with our own rather uneventful year, we can say with a good deal of conviction that for all that, Tipperary contributed handsomely to an eventful season and as we look back on the events of the year we can see that as far as hurling is concerned, we were little behind the best in any grade.

With the seniors reaching the League semi final and then holding league champions, Clare to a draw in the opening round of the championship before losing narrowly in the replay, we also recall the great performance of our under-21 side in Pairc Uí Caoimh when going under narrowly to Cork. Then our minors, bidding to emulate the feat of their predecessors of the previous year, struck an unfortunate patch against Clare and also failed. Had they got over the Clare hurdle, it is quite on the cards that they would have gone on to far better things.

However sport is a mixture of good and bad luck and in congratulating our conquerors, we would remind them, that the spirit of Tipperary is rising again and the manner in which the entire county is responding to efforts to restore us to our proud position as the Premier County, is something of which we can feel happy about. Hopefully, 1978 will see Tipperary playing as never before to get back into the honours list.

Indeed our county final draw between Kilruane MacDonagh's and Borris-ileigh revived all the fire that is traditional Tipperary hurling and we are confident that both of these great clubs will play their part in extending that fire to our performances when donning the blue and gold jersey.

In a county where hurling has always been our strong point, it is natural that more emphasis be placed on this game. However it would be remiss of us not to play our part in fostering that grand game of football. As we have seen through Dublin and other counties, football has received something of a transformation in recent years and we must try to lift our standards and infuse greater interest in the game. Our performances here have hardly been of the giant killing nature but for all that we have people in our midst willing and ready to take on the onerous task, provided the proper co-operation is given from all quarters, progress must follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay my sincerest tribute to all who have co-operated with me in the running of the Board's affairs during the past year. Much work has been carried out unseen with the sole interests of promoting the GAA in Tipperary and this is especially true when one thinks



of our juveniles. They are people who must be guided properly and thankfully the response from clubs within the county has been reflected in the many stirring juvenile games witnessed during the year.

In accordance with a County Board bye-law passed a few years ago, my term of office must come to an end at the end of 1978. Naturally it would be my earnest hope that my term would have included a senior hurling title but whatever the fates have in store for us in that regard during the coming year, my overriding wish must be for a continuance of the great work being done by so many in furthering the cause of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Centenary year isn't all that far away and we in Tipperary, by virtue of our special position as the home of the GAA, have a commitment that cannot be shirked. Let us face up to it just as our forefathers did and let us show the country that Tipperary is proud of its heritage and is willing to make every sacrifice to ensure its maintenance.

Hoibeard ó Hógain
CHAIRMAN

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BORD NA nOG

County Tipp Juvenile GAA Activities 1977

From the juvenile Board's point of view 1977 will rank as a very successful one in many ways. Competitions were finished in good time, but it would be best to review the years activities regarding all aspects of a juvenile club.

Speaking of juvenile clubs there are seventy affiliated to juvenile Boards in the four divisions. This year the county and divisional Boards ran nine championships which meant that 36 teams would contest the county championships. However these thirty six teams represented only eighteen clubs in the county. The strong clubs keep coming through each year, and its for this reason that it's hard to be subjective regarding the standard of competition at club level.

There are a number of clubs which have an outstanding record of success. Cashel under 14 teams won three county championships. Feile na nGael blitz and Turas na nOg.

Moycarkey Board took four Mid Divisional titles and were unlucky not to have won a County title. Toomevara had a great run in Nort Tipp, winning three titles in hurling. Their under 12 hurlers were most impressive in winning the County final. Borrisokane also took three North Tipp titles, two in football and one in hurling. Loughmore whose juveniles have won so much over the past four years continued their success in the under 16 competition. Clonoulty Rossmore won County honours after forty-three years. A list of all the

by
Liam Mac Craith



Clonoulty-Rossmore winners of Co. Tipperary under 14 rural hurling final. Front Row: J. Dwyer, T. Mahony, Joe Hayes, (capt. with trophy) N. Maher, J. Kennedy. Middle Row: Peter Dwyer (Committee), Neil Ryan (R), S. Slattery, D. Murphy, S. Hammersley, F. Ryan, P. Kirby, E. Carney, J. Fitzgerald, J. Kennedy, chairman. Back Row: M. Maxwell, manager, P. Quirke, A. Fryday, J. Kennedy, P. Hayes, M. Kane, P. Ryan (R), D. Ryan (M), P. Maher (Committee).

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divisional and County Champions appear elsewhere in this article.

LEADERSHIP NECESSARY

All these clubs have been successful as regards winning but we must not put too much emphasis on winning, what about the club that seldom win a competition, and there are many of these. All clubs must look after their young players and this should not mean just fielding teams for competitions. The running of parish leagues and general attention to our players all year round is necessary. Providing hurleys, coaching the skills of the game must be part of the programme of a properly formed juvenile Committee. Good leadership in this respect is essential. Most of the clubs who achieve success have got this leadership, but perhaps a problem in our county is the general shortage of good leadership for juveniles at club level. Looking after juveniles is a demanding task. Divisional and County Boards should help with promotional work, particularly in parishes and schools where competition is poor.

The standard of competition is still too low but the key to the future must be in the raising of standards. This would include the implementation of the points mentioned already. If this is done by most clubs the standard will automatically be raised with better leadership, more coaching, not putting too much competition on winning rather than getting total involvement and dedication. There is no sign of panic in Tipperary. The fact is that one must work on our problems.

COMPETITIONS DURING 1977

Feile na nGael. Under 14 Hurling.

To fund the team to represent us in Waterford this year a "blitz" competition was organised in each division. The winners then went forward to a County "blitz" and Cashel hurlers were successful. A fine bunch of young lads they were and had a very fine outing in Waterford, winning two rounds before making their exit in the semi-final of Group A to Eire Og, Ennis.

Feile All-Ireland Skills Competition

It's our pleasure to write that Liam Peters of St. Mary's, Clonmel won this title for Tipperary, defeating competitors from the other 31 counties, he finished the competition with full marks. The President of the GAA presented him with a magnificent trophy. Congratulations.

UNDER 12 HURLING

"The Greyhounds are back" was the threat after Toomevara's success at Templemore. Our youngest County Champions certainly got their game right and served up some delightful hurling to win this competition. It was their first ever juvenile county title and judging by their display we will be hearing more from them. They defeated Moycarkey Borris in the final.

UNDER 12 FOOTBALL

St. Nicholas of Carrick-on-Suir won this title for the second successive year for their team manager, Tom Nealon. They were a very well coached team, but in overcoming Borrisokane in the county final we were served up some beautiful individual football by David Donnelly of Borrisokane.

As a footnote to the two under 12 competitions I think it should be compulsory that the pitch be shortened for all games and that the goalposts should be in proportion to the size of the small competitors.

UNDER 14 RURAL HURLING

This is one of the prestige competitions and when Bord na nOg was formed in Tipperary this was the only competition then under 15 years. The competition produced the best final of the year in Thurles, and a good attendance were fortunate to see this game.

Toomevara lined out against the "Men from the West" Clonoulty Rossmore hadn't won a county title since 1933 and Toomevara were anxious to add this title to their under 12



LIAM PETERS

Winner of 1977 All-Ireland Skill's Competition at Feile Na nGael. Liam is from St. Mary's Jurling Club in Clonmel, and we congratulate him on his success. He is the first hurler from Tipperary to win this competition.

In the All-Ireland competition he scored full marks, defeating hurlers from 31 other counties.

The magnificent trophy in the photo was presented to him by Mr. Con Murphy, President of the G.A.A.



Cashel King Cormac's Under 14's

Cashel King Cormac's under 14 team winners of the West and County hurling and football championships. This very successful team also won the bronze medal at the Community Games final at Mosney and reached the semi-final of the Feile na nGael in Waterford. These successes were achieved with a panel of just twenty six players.

This team also won Turas na nOg.

Front Row left to right: Colm Bonnar, Jimmy Ryan, Eddie Wallace (captain hurling team), Bernard Ryan, (captain football team), Terry O'Brien, Paul Cormac.

Middle Row left to right: Willie Doyle, Liam O'Brien, Martin Coleman, John Maher, Michael Fanning, Sean Slattery, Raymond Davern.

Back Row left to right: Donal Fanning, Pat Walsh, John Walsh, Eamonn McGeer, Desmond Riorden, John Osbourne, Joe Moloney, Kevin Hall, Timmy Buckley.

Missing when photo was taken were Paul Ryan, Jerry O'Brien, Willie Fitzel and Willie Lonergan.

success of a few weeks previously. Toome who were slow to settle built up a four points interval lead, and judging by the way they were playing Toome looked set for victory. But we had not seen the real spirit of this Clonoulty Rossmore team, and three great goals within seven minutes of the re-start set them on the road to victory. The final score was Clonoulty 5-9 Toomevara 5-2.

FOOTNOTE — While the attendance at this great exhibition of hurling in Semple Stadium on a beautiful sunny summer afternoon was good, there was a noticeable deficiency of neutral observers, particularly juveniles. Clubs should bring their players along to witness these games.

UNDER 14 URBAN/RURAL FOOTBALL

Cashel received their stiffest task in the semi-final against Clonmel Commercial played in picturesque Clogheen winning by a last minute goal by their outstanding player of the year Bernard Ryan. In the final they wore down a gallant Templemore team to take the title.

UNDER 14 URBAN/RURAL HURLING

Four days after winning the under 14 football against Cashel were given their hardest hurling game of the year when they were extended all the way by Moycarkey-Borris who looked like causing a surprise up to the final ten minutes. In the end Cashel stamped their claim to being the best under fourteen hurling team in Tipp this year.

UNDER 14 RURAL FOOTBALL

Cahir had a large following of supporters in Cashel Sportsfield to witness their team winning their first county final since Cahir Slashers 1961 victory. They easily overcame Clonoulty-Rossmore in the final.

TURAS NA nOG

This competition is staged each year and every alternate year the winners are given a free day at the All-Ireland hurling or football finals — this includes stand tickets given by the County Senior Board. The winners of under 14 rural and urban-rural competitions play-off for the prize. This year was for football Cashel and Cahir met in Golden and the game ended in an exciting draw. In the replay Cashel scraped home one point to end a great year of under 14 victories.

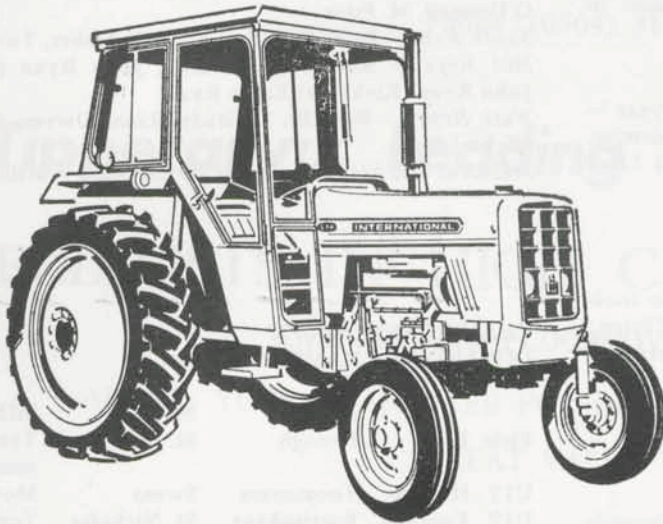
UNDER 16 HURLING

For Tipperary Bord na nOg this is the premier competition Loughmore-Castleiney who were beaten by one point last year defeated their conquerors Ballingarry in the semi-final and easily won the final against Knockanilla Kickhams. This victory for Loughmore is just another of a string of successes over the past four years by this amazing club which is traditionally a football parish. While the juveniles are successful in both codes they are slowly becoming a predominant hurling parish.

The under 16 Football competition is unfinished at the time

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of going to press.

The West Division has come out tops this year winning four County Competitions. A lot of this is due to the great year Cashel had. Cashel are managed by Bro. Ryan and Danny Fanning, and even this year received a lot of their coaching by Bro. O'Grady who is now in Dublin.

The question should be posed "Do our competitions need re-structuring?" Should we have under 12 and under 15 competitions only. This year the Board faced enormous problems with under 16 players playing Minor and under 12 playing under 14. Perhaps we have too many competitions with too many games for the winning clubs and too few for those knocked out early on in competition.

FIELDS

This year all fields were in excellent conditions for all our games, and field committees showed great enthusiasm in having them well prepared.

REFEREES

The following referees officiated at our games this year — Liam Ryan, Billy Carroll, Sammy Ryan, Donal O'Gorman, Tom McGrath, Joe McNamara, Michael Loneragan and Liam Dwyer.

We are indebted to these men.

SCOR NA nOG 1977

Congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Butler, Thurles who took this All-Ireland in intermediate music, and to M. O'Brien, Clogheen and Clonmel Commercials who took provincial honours in recitation and ballad groups respectively.

HURLEYS

This year the Board placed an order for 3600 juvenile hurleys. These are available to the clubs and are subsidised. The hurleys are also available to schools, but the response isn't great. Each division should review the situation annually and compile all their clubs and schools requirements, so that orders could be placed in time to ensure availability for the start of all competitions. The quality of these hurleys has



Loughmore-Castleiney Under 16 Hurling County Champions.

Back Row: Pat McGrath, Pat McCormack, Timmy Stapleton, Peter Brennan, John Egan, Joe Kiely, Richard Egan. Second Row: Paddy Egan, Sean Mockler, Conor Eviston, Joe O'Connell, Eugene Stapleton, Thomas P'Connell, James Maher, Declan Allen, Lant Carroll, Sean Og Lynch, Rev. John O'Rourke, C.C., John Fitzpatrick, Phil Gleeson. Front Row: Billy McCormack, Joe Sweeney, Ailbe Egan, John McCormack, Gerard Geehan (captain), Francis McGrath, John Hennessy, Liam McCormack, Michael O'Connell.

Photo: Eric Campbell-Templemore

improved substantially and are available from Mr. Denis Hogan Castle Street, Thurles who is the County hurley intake officer and Bord na nOG Treasurer.

TRIBUTE

The Bord would like to thank fellow Bord members Bro. M.V.O'Grady who has been transferred to Dublin. He will be missed by our Bord and we wish him health and success in Dublin.

COUNTY BORD na nOG MEMBERS 1977

Chairman — Billy Carroll

Secretary — Liam McGrath

Treasurer — Denis Hogan

North Repts — Rev. Fr. Seymour, Michael O'Brien, A. M. O'Donnell, M. Prior

South Repts — Patsy O'Halloran, Eddie Maher, Tom Neaton

Mid Repts — Rev. Fr. O'Rourke, John Ryan (Moycarkey), John Ryan (Kickham) Eddie Ryan

West Repts — Rev. Br. O'Grady, Liam Dwyer, Sanny Ryan, Michael Ryan.

President and life long worker for juveniles — Willie Dwyer

CHAMPIONS FOR 1977 DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS

		NORTH Nenagh	SOUTH St. Mary's	MID Templemore	WEST Cashel
Feile Blitz					
U12 Hurling	Toomevara	Swans	Moycarkey	Emly	
U12 Football	Borrisokane	St. Nicholas	Temple-touhy	Cashel	
U14 Rural Hurling	Toomevara	Cahir	Moycarkey	Clonoulty	
U14 U/R Football	Roscrea	Commercials	Templemore	Cashel	
U14 U/R Hurling	Toomevara	St. Mary's	Moycarkey	Cashel	
U14 Rural Football	Borrisokane	Cahir	Moycarkey	Clonoulty	
U16 Hurling	Borrisokane	Ballingarry	Loughmore	Kickham	
U16 Football	Roscrea	Commercials	Loughmore	Cashel	

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Feile Blitz — CASHEL

U12 Hurling — TOOMEVARA

U12 Football — St. NICHOLAS, Carrick-on-Suir

U14 Hurling — CLONOUITY-ROSSMORE

U14 U/R Football — CASHEL

U14 U/R Hurling — CASHEL

U14 Rural Football — CAHIR

U16 Hurling — LOUGHMORE

U16 Football — Not Finished

TURAS NA nOG — CASHEL

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Liam McGrath
Treasurer

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WEST TIPPERARY G.A.A.

West Tipperary's Convention in January, 1977, brought a few changes in officer personnel, Senator Willie Ryan was unopposed for the chair and began his second year of fairly successful administration. George Ryan of the Lattin-Cullen club and John Treacy from Cappawhite were also confirmed in their positions as Vice-chairmen.

Michael Maguire, for six years the Board's efficient secretary, decided to retire because of pressure of business. Two candidates, Roger Kennedy and Brendan Ryan contested the position and on a vote the former was narrowly elected. Brendan who had been the Division's most efficient treasurer for the previous three years had to retire because of a Bye Law.

Mortimer O'Connell, long serving treasurer of the Golden club, was unanimously elected Keeper of the Division's Purse. This was a most popular appointment as Morty had been a regular attender at Board meetings for over three and a half decades.

REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED

Jimmy Hennessy, Hugh Kennedy and Joe Carroll, outgoing County Board representatives were, as expected, re elected but there was quite a surprise, when Aengus Ryan, Cashel King Cormacs, one of the county's three successful minor hurling selectors of the previous year, ousted George Ryan from the fourth position.

Greatest honour in the Division's 47 years of existence was to come on the last Sunday of January when delegates from the four Divisions of the County chose Michael Maguire as their representative on the Central Council, the controlling body of the G.A.A. This was the first time ever that a man from West Tipperary became a member of the Ruling 32. We congratulate Michael who

has proved to be an efficient member and an able Ambassador from West Tipperary.

Came the Munster Convention and another high honour for the Division. Michael Frawley, from Emly, the county's reliable representative on the Provincial body, for the past few years, was voted in as chairman of that august committee and consequently became vice-chairman of the highest G.A.A. body in the land. Michael, whose knowledge of the Association's complex book of rules is a by-word, is no stranger to the chairman's role for he served a three-year stint as his own Division's top executive.

SAFE HANDS

And may I say there were times when his knowledge of the rules and incidentally his patience and natural aplomb were stretched to the limits. I have no doubt in the world that the G.A.A.'s affairs are in pretty safe hands and that when those two stalwart Gaels step down, they will have made quite a substantial con-

by Willie O' Donnell

Lattin-Emly, Winners Minor Football Championship 1977.



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also at Carrickbeg.



Kickhams Senior Hurling Team, Winners Crosco Cup 1977.

tribution to the Association's welfare.

DEDICATED TRIO

For the past few years the Division's fixtures have been in the hands of a three man committee usually comprising the Board Secretary, Board Treasurer and another either voted in or agreed upon. The practice was adhered to for this year and Roger Kennedy, Mortimer O'Connell and D.J. Gleeson (Eire Og), were charged with the never easy task of arranging the Fixtures, considering something in the region of 70 teams had to be catered for. It is a measure of the trio's dedication and the co-operation received from the clubs that, as we approach mid-October, all championships, with the exception of Senior football, Under 21 hurling and football and No. 1 Junior Hurling have been completed. Those games have however reached the final stages.

They have also reached the Divisional semi finals in Under 21 hurling and junior football, with expectations in both. During the year, the club purchased a few acres of land around Kilcommon Cross, which, at the moment, the members are in the process of developing. For their efforts in Scor 77, they received

a citation from the chairman of the Board.

SUCCESSFUL TEAMS

Eire Og, No. 1 Junior Hurling team, who put up such wonderful performances in last year's county decider against Burgess, have again reached the Divisional decider, in which they meet the winners of the Solohead-Galtee Rovers replay.

Champions for the past half dozen years, Cashel King Cormacs went out of this year's minor hurling championships in the decider before the determined hurling of a combination of youths from the Cappawhite-Eire Og clubs. This entente, on a miserable Saturday evening, were with 'Nenagh, Eire Og, eventual county champions, up to the closing minutes before finally succumbing to some hurling by the lads from the North.

WEST TIPP. TO THE FORE

There are those who would claim that West Tipperary has earned the title of premier football area in the county. Last season, Galtee Rovers won the county championship, defeating another famed footballing club, Arravale Rovers, from Tipperary town in the final, while Cashel King Cormacs took the junior

title, at the expense of Holycross.

Now in senior ranks, King Cormacs were unlucky to go out before the county championships in this year's Divisional championship. Glamour team in the senior football championship this season was the combo formed from the minor football clubs, Golden and Rockwell Rovers. They were beaten by Arravale Rovers in the first round of the Divisional tilts but went on to beat Lattin Cullen and Fethard, to reach the county semi-final, which they lost by a point to county finalists Loughmore-Castleiney.

Solohead, ever to the fore in both codes, have and for the first time either, reached the final of the senior football championship, in which game they will meet Galtee Rovers who are seeking their fourth title in a row. There has never been a title between those teams and this decider is eagerly looked forward to.

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

Only 3 teams, Clonoulty-Rossmore, Golden-Kilfeacle and Emly entered for the Intermediate football championship. The competition was played on a home and away double league system and

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Golden-Kilfeacle emerged unbeaten winners. Meanwhile their partners in the senior team, Rockwell Rovers have reached the final of the junior football championships; defeating by a single point a fine bunch of footballers from Aherlow.

MINOR FOOTBALL

The minor football championship went back to the Emly-Lattin combo after a lapse of a year. They defeated many times recent winners, Cashel King Cormacs in the final. They are a nice bunch of footballers whose progress in the interdivisional games will be watched with interest.

BR. M. V. O'GRADY

During the year, the Division lost through transfer to Dublin, Brother M. V. O'Grady, chief architect of Tipperary's great minor win last year. He will be greatly missed by the Cashel club that he brought out of the hurling and football doldrums to be one of the most successful in the Division. Above all his going will cause a pang to the juveniles, in whose interest, over the past few years he laboured unceasingly.

The big talking point hereabouts, of late is the complete eclipse of the Cashel K.C. club. Last season they won no less than seven titles, five in hurling and two in football to date their hurling titles with the exception of the Under 21, have gone elsewhere, while their sole interest in football is confined to Under 21 in which competition, they have reached the semi-final.

To the county senior Under 21 and minor hurling selection committees the Board has elected respectively John

Kelly (Cappawhite), Dan Morrissey (Kickhams) and Angus Ryan (Cashel). Sean McManus (Emly) will be the Division's appointee to the senior football selection committee.

CROSCA CUP

The opening competition of the crowded season was the Croscas Cup, a knock-out competition for senior hurling teams. Holders, Cashel King Cormacs, were expected to hold on to the trophy but they were surprisingly, beaten in the semi-finals at Golden, by Knockavilla Kickhams, who went on to take the cup, their first in many moons.

O'DONOGHUE CUP

Counterpart in Senior football, was the O'Donoghue Cup, presented by the Lattin-Emly club, to perpetuate the memory of the late Paddy O'Donoghue, one of the Division's greatest footballers. Played on a League system, it was won by Galtee Rovers, the Division's Ringpins in the code for a number of years.

With the County Board's abandonment of the Open Draw, in favour of winners-runners up teams from the 4 Divisions, an early start was made to the Senior hurling championship. This competition, again run on a League system attracted an entry of six teams. After a fine series of games Cashel King Cormacs, Sean Treacys, Kickhams and Eire Og-Clonoulty, the last-named a fusion of 2 junior teams, emerged to contest the semi-finals.

EXCITING GAMES

Unbeaten King Cormac's, the champions, were drawn against Kickhams, in the first semi-final, played at Sean Treacy Park. After a hard fought game, Kickhams

emerged victorious by a narrow margin, to reach the final for the first time in many, many years.

The second semi-final, proved something of an anti-climax, with Sean Treacy winning easily on a tight rein. When the teams met in the League proper, Treacys were considered lucky to win by a matter of a couple of points so the semi-final attracted quite a crowd who were somewhat disappointed with the poor showing of the Combo.

Golden was the chosen venue for the final, fixed for August 14. The Gaels there went to great rounds to be worthy of the confidence reposed in them and had everything in apple pie order for the great event. Shortly before the time appointed for the game to start, a blinding thunderstorm, accompanied by torrential rain enveloped the pitch. As there appeared to be no let up, a hurried meeting of the Board officers and representatives of the teams was held.

It was decided, in the interests of safety, to postpone the game to the following Sunday. Kickhams, doughty fighters ever, were expected to thwart the aspirations of Treacys, who had enlisted the aid of Donie Nealon, in their preparation. The huge crowd present got little value for money for the lads from Kilcommon-Hollford swept to the title in commanding manner. The game marked the return to active duty of Dinny Ryan, Treacys' former inter-county stalwart, who had been sidelined for a couple of seasons on medical advice.

GOOD SHOW, KICKHAMS!

In the interdivisional series, our newly-crowned champions, did us proud. They met and convincingly defeated Mid runners-up, Holycross, in the quarter finals and most neutrals considered them very unlucky to go out before Kilruane McDonoughs, by a bare goal, in the county semi-finals. For good measure, this very progressive club, executive for many years by Mick Caplis and Matty Ryan, also took the No. 2 junior hurling title, beating arch-rivals Cashel King Cormacs in the decider, by a goal.

West Tipp's Results

Junior Football Championship

Rockwell Rovers 1-13

Cashel K.C. 0-5

Senior Football Championship

Semi-final

Galtee Rovers 4-13

Multheen Rovers 1-6

Solohead 1-4

Arravale Rovers 0-7

County Senior Hurling

Quarter-finals

Sean Treacy's 1-13

Holycross 0-9

Moyne-Templetouhy 2-12

Kickhams 1-6



Sean Treacy's, Senior Hurling Championship winners 1977.

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Donie Nealon, won his first of five medals for Tipperary in 1958. Recently elected Secretary, Munster Council.

THURLES CENTRE

It is a now history that in 1970 the G.A.A. launched a scheme for the provision of short term loans to clubs at reduced interest rates aimed at stimulating the provision of Social and Sporting facilities and thereby filling a void that has existed for so long. Long before this great scheme was embarked on successive Annual General Meetings of Sarsfields Club in the late fifties and early sixties visualised the erection of a suitable centre. This would be a place of recreation for the Community, young and old, female and male alike but with emphasis on the first mentioned.

The financial involvement within a club whose resources were stretched to the limit in maintaining teams at all levels was a deterrent. However with the advent of the Club Development Scheme, the success of which our county played a major part, greatly exceeding the target set and obtaining second place in the list of investors. Sarsfields again reviewed the position at its Convention of 1971.

LOAN NEGOTIATED

A sub-committee was given the all clear to tackle the problem mentioned. A loan of £20,000 was negotiated, the expert advice of Paddy Fogarty was freely given. In

fact it can be recorded that he threw himself wholehearted into the venture and after long hours voluntarily donated he eventually presented the blue print.

Fund raising began and received the sympathetic support of many friends. Encouraged by this and the success of our weekly Irish Nights at Hayes Hotel, Bingo sessions, Concerts and other amenities the club was determined to succeed.

PRESIDENT

To day the Centre overlooks an¹ adjoins the famous Thurles pitch famed in song

UNIQUE RECORD FOR EMLY GIRLS

What must be a unique record in any County was set up by five girls under fourteen from the little Parish of Emly.

They won fifteen under twelve years Hurling Medals since 1975. They won the Under 12 Hurling Championship of West Tipperary in 1975, '76, '77. In Camogie they won the County Community Games medals in '75 and '77 and the Under-14

County Championship medals in 1975 and '76.

Their names are:

Cora O'Brien; Genevieve English; Miriam Mulhall; Kara Moloney; Martina Ryan.

Their trainer and coach is Sean McManus N.T. Emly.



Front row: left to right: Cora O'Brien and Genevieve English. Back row: left to right: Miriam Mulhall, Kara Moloney and Martina Ryan.

and in story and graced so many times by our esteemed President who so graciously accepted our invitation to declare the Centre open.

Further extension to include a Museum is visualised when the debt which now exists is reduced.

To date a sum of £60,000 has been expended and today our members and friends partake of the facilities provided. Many old faces have reappeared. We welcome them

as well as those who have yet to visit us. The facilities provided at the centre now obtain for the pupils of all our schools. Our own players of all ages and players of visiting teams and groups have now a comfortable and well equipped complex.

We ask that the centre be taken care of, that it will be respected and its rules strictly observed.

Sean O Lanagan

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West Tipp Convention: Chairman's Report

A Chara Ghael

Is mór an onóir dom céad míle fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir go dtí an seachtú Comhdháil is dachad dín Chumann Lúith Cleas Gael, Tiobraid Árann Thiar, atá a Reachtáil againn anseo inniu.

Gabhaim búiochas ó chróí dhaoibh toisc gur thogh sibh mé, d'aon ghuth, man bhúr gCathaoirleach le haghaidh bliana eile.

A Chairde,

I consider it a very great honour to be Chairman of this Board and I would like to express my appreciation of the fact that you have conferred this honour on me unanimously. I am deeply conscious of the responsibilities which go with this high office and for that reason I have endeavoured during the past year to discharge these responsibilities to the very utmost of my ability. It is my earnest desire that I shall continue to serve you during the coming year with the same sense of dedication and commitment and in the best traditions of my illustrious predecessors.

FRUITFUL YEARS

My first year in office has been a very happy and fruitful one. Less than three weeks after my election to office Galtee Rovers brought the 1975 Under 21 Football County title to the Division and later, on September 12th in Thurles the same Club won the County Senior Football Championship for the first time since 1950. I am sure we all shared the same sense of pride even before the County Final took place because irrespective of which team won on the field the County Honours were destined to go to West Tipperary. While I congratulate Galtee Rovers on their victory I would also wish to congratulate Arravale Rovers in defeat and I am confident that before long they too will bring County honours to West Tipperary.

Over the past few years there has been a growing improvement in the standard of football in all grades in this Division. In the words of the immortal song: When Ireland lay broken and bleeding, they look to the men of the West!! I am not suggesting that in so far, as football is concerned the Premier County is down and out, but it would be foolish to close our eyes to the fact that by comparison with the great Tipperary football teams of other days we have sunk to a very low level indeed. It is

my earnest hope and conviction that if we are to recover from this sad state of affairs, it is West Tipperary that will provide the inspiration, the heart and the players to rekindle the flame and set the bonfires blazing from the Galtees to the Silvermines and from Sliabh Felim to Sliabh na mBan.

FIRST TITLE

When this County was a force in football, West Tipperary was in the forefront. In 1889 Tipperary won its first All-Ireland Senior Title (Football) and the team that did it was the famous Bohercrowe of Tipperary Town and in 1895 they repeated the performance, to bring the county its second title. When Tipperary won their first and last All Ireland Minor Football Championship in 1934, no fewer than eight of the team were from the West. One finds it difficult to understand how a County so rich in football talent during the first fifty years of the G.A.A. should now so sadly languish at, or near, the lowest rungs of the football ladder.

In Minor Hurling, Cashel after a great game, surrendered their County title of two years standing to Loughmore. Eire Og were our standard bearers in the No. 1 Junior

Hurling and it took two great games before Burgess emerged winners. In Under 21 Hurling Cashel were our standard bearers and after a great drawn game with Kilruane they were defeated two Sundays ago. Three of our teams are still there with good prospects of winning County Honours in M.F., J.F. and under 21 F. I wish them all the very best of luck.

West Tipperary may feel justly proud of the part it played in bringing the 1976 All-Ireland Minor Hurling Crown to Tipperary. On that team we had Tommy Grogan and Tony Slattery of Cashel King Cormacs and P.J. Maxwell of Clounoulty, all of whom acquitted themselves with distinction in all the games played by the Co. Team right up to and including the Final in Croke Park on the First Sunday of September.

After all due allowance is made for the Skills, determination and dedication of the players, one must not lose sight of those devoted men in the background without whose hard work, expertise and teenage psychology such a magnificent victory would not have been possible.



Cahir Rural County Under 14 Football Champions 1977

Back Row, left to right : David Fitzgerald, Shamie Quirke, John Conway, Willie O'Halloran, Jim Casey, John Duggan, Anthony Cunningham, Dan Casey, Billie Lonergan, Gerry Fitzgerald, Joe Murphy.
Front Row, left to right : Anthony O'Gorman, Tom Cunningham, Tom Hubbard, Matt McEniry (captain), Maurice Doyle, Stephen McCormack, Con Naughton, Michael Curran and John Murphy.

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PRaise

A special word of praise and appreciation must go to our West Selector Angus Ryan, who worked so unsparingly, together with his colleagues to secure that badly needed All-Ireland after a lapse of sixteen years. Of the coach and trainer Rev. Bro. O'Grady what can one say that hasn't already been said more eloquently by others? We are forever in his debt for the role he played in moulding and coaching this gallant team of teenagers, for awakening in them the spirit of the indefinable steel of Tipperary, and for showing to all the world that Knocknagow was not (after all) dead, but asleep.

There is a whisper abroad that Rev. Bro. O'Grady might be shortly leaving us on transfer to another school. I sincerely hope that this report is unfounded. While I would have no objection to a transfer from Cashel to Tipperary Town, I feel that should he be posted outside the County his loss to Cashel, to the West and to all of Tipperary would be beyond repair.

I wouldn't like to let this occasion pass without paying a generous tribute to the work of that great teaching Order the Irish C.B.S. Down through the years they have made a rich contribution in fostering all that is best in the promotion of our native games, our native language, our distinct National identity and our own Irish culture. The G.A.A. owe a deep debt of gratitude to this dedicated Order of teaching Brothers and I would like it to go forth from this time and place that we will never be unmindful of the part they have played in the spiritual educational and recreational life of our nation.

Finally I would wish again to congratulate our Minors and express the hope that this year's victory is but the beginning of a new era in Tipperary hurling supremacy.

With the exception of three matches I am pleased to report that uncalled for incidents on the field of play were very few during the year. I appeal to all Clubs to continue the good example during 1977.

Fixtures

During the year I heard many uncalled for complaints about the Fixtures Committee and I now want to make it clear that the criticism levelled against this Committee was most unfair and uncalled for. No doubt, being human, like the rest of us, they do make mistakes occasionally, but when account is taken of their heavy work load and the amount of good work they perform, these mistakes seem trivial indeed. No group has worked harder than this three-man Committee. They met practically every Sunday and spent long hours sorting out fixture problems when the rest of you were otherwise enjoying yourselves. If mistakes were made, I regret to have to say that it was the Clubs involved who were to blame, as they did not always co-operate with the Fixtures Committee.

At Convention time each year Clubs appear to have an abundance of players and enter teams in every grade. When it comes to playing the first round of the Championship many of these players seem to disappear into thin air. As a result the Fixtures Committee having arranged matches in all good faith, the Secretary is informed a day or two beforehand that some Club or Clubs cannot field a team. Last year we had more withdrawals of teams than ever before particularly in the under age competitions. As well as being unfair to the Board this attitude is also most unfair to our patrons, the general public, who quite often during the year turned up to venues to find only one game instead of two and in some cases no game at all. In order to be fair to the general public, as well as to the good image of our games it is my intention this year to impose severe penalties on any Club that withdraws from the Championship without giving the Secretary at least seven days notice of their intention to do so.

Co-operation

Another case of non-co-operation last year was when the Fixtures Committee made fixtures and notified the Clubs concerned. These Clubs decided among themselves to

fulfil the fixture at some other venue or on some other date. This state of affairs will not be tolerated in future and any Clubs found guilty of this offence will be liable to disqualification. Two years ago the then Chairman, in his address to Convention, stated that we had far too much of the "We" and "They" attitude and he appealed to the Clubs to work with the officers and Committees as one Team. I regret to say that this appeal fell on deaf ears and to the present day the selfish "We" and "They" attitude still exists. I now repeat the appeal made by the then Chairman. Let us all work together in harmony and co-operation and we shall have a much happier and healthier atmosphere at all levels.

In order to facilitate the Clubs during the coming year an effort will be made by the Fixtures Committee to draw up a fixtures list at least one month in advance and I hope that the Clubs will co-operate fully with the Fixtures Committee in this respect.

Secretary's Report

I compliment both our Secretary and Treasurer on their very excellent reports which we have already discussed. You will note from our secretary's Report that all our Championships are not yet completed. This I very much regret. It is not the fault of the Fixtures' Committee but is due to circumstances outside our control. One of the reasons for this state of affairs is that we do not commence our fixtures early enough in the year and in order to overcome this problem I suggest that we accept affiliations tonight for the O'Donoghue Cup so that we can commence matches on the first Sunday in February.

I feel that the time has come for the G.A.A. at all levels to have a close look at the fixtures' list. It should be our aim as it had been in the past to have all our Championships completed not later than the last Sunday in November and that no games should be played during the months of December and January. I wonder have we too many competitions at the present time and are we playing matches

just for the sake of fulfilling engagements. I sincerely hope that something can soon be done to have this pressing problem resolved.

Referees:

I wish to thank our Referees both from within the Division and outside it for their dedicated services during the year. A referee's job is a thankless one and he cannot please all the people all the time. It is nothing less than disgusting to hear jeers and cat-calls from the sideline directed at our referees, especially our young referees. Referees are in short supply and I am afraid we have no one to blame but ourselves for this unhappy situation. Young referees are seldom given a happy send-off and if they make a mistake in their first game, they suffer so much abuse that they are slow to take another game.

We are very fortunate in this Division in that we have a first-class Referees' Committee led by such men as John Moloney and George Ryan. This Committee held referees' courses once a week in Bansha. I had the privilege of being present at one of their meetings when they had in attendance Father Troy, the Co Cork All-Ireland Coach who provided us with a most entertaining and educational lecture, accompanied by films of previous All-Irelands. I am confident that within a year or two we here in West Tipperary will have, thanks to this Committee, a first-class panel of referees, capable of handling any game in any grade.

Clubs

The position of our Clubs continues to show improvement. More teams were entered and whilst we had a number of withdrawals, yet I feel that most Clubs made an effort to get as many as possible involved in our games notwithstanding all the other counter attractions in every parish. To the Clubs who were successful in winning titles I say "Do not be disheartened. Keep up the good work and your turn will surely come".

To the victorious I offer heartiest congratulations — in football Galtee Rovers and Golden and in hurling Eire

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Og. You will notice that I have a short list which of course is due to the fact that one Club, Cashel King Cormacs practically swept the boards. I have already referred to them in another context but I feel that a special word of praise for them is not out of place at this stage.

Last year they won the Senior Hurling Championship. The Crosco Cup Under 21 Hurling, Minor Hurling, Intermediate Football, Minor Football and may yet win Under 21 Football and No. 2 Junior Hurling. This is an achievement that any Club might well feel proud of and it must be a record for any Club not alone in West Tipperary but in the whole County.

This remarkable achievement is due in no small way to the all-out dedication and enthusiasm of the Cashel

Players and officials. If every club in the Division followed Cashel's example in this regard I am sure that they too could attain an equal level of achievement. If the King Cormacs continue this sequence of success, I feel that it will not be long before a County Senior Hurling Championship will be their due reward — a Championship to which they were very close on a number of occasions in the past.

Cashel also figured prominently in relation to our County Senior Hurling team, having supplied two players to that team in the persons of John Grogan and Pat Fitzgelle. Indeed were it not for a bit of hard luck and a partisan goalpost in the first round against Cork, both these players might well now be sporting All-Ireland Senior

Medals.

The one great advantage that Cashel have over other Clubs is that they possess a trainer and coach supreme in the person of Brother O'Grady and I think the time has come when every Club should have a good hard look at this very important aspect of our games. I am well aware of the difficulties that confront rural Clubs in this regard but I feel that we, as a Board, should be prepared to lend a hand in resolving these difficulties. I am very pleased to learn that this idea has been put forward by the Referees' Committee and by Mr Hugh Kennedy, as well. In fact I think it was Hugh Kennedy who first came up with the idea. No doubt we shall hear more on this subject from the Committee before very long.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Most of the Senior Hurling teams were defeated in the first round of the open draw and the remainder in the second round. I don't think that was their true form and I personally look forward to the day when we revert to the former position and our Divisional Champions will represent us in a County Semi Final. I feel sure this is the only way in which we can succeed in securing Co Honours.

FIELDS

We have now reached the stage where almost every Club in the Division owns its own field and I hope the one or two Clubs not in this happy position will soon be on a par with all the others. While we have an abundance of good playing fields — with



Toomevara Under 14 Hurling Team North Tipperary Rural and Urban/Rural Champions.

Back Row left to right: Michael Spillane, Patrick McCormack, Lawrence Hickey, Declan Delaney, Thomas Shanahan (capt.), Brian Delaney, Sean Nolan.

Third Row left to right: Michael Kennedy, Noel McDonald, John Ryan, Ned Younge, Liam Flaherty, Liam Nolan, Stephen Guerin.

Second Row left to right: Philip Hennesy, John Spillane, Pat Haverty, Seamus Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Michael Bergin, Patrick Kennedy, Stephen Ryan.

Front Row left to right: Joseph Grace, John Clarke, Joe Ryan, John Delaney, Pat King, Michael Harty.

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the notable exception of Emly and Bansha — the development of Dressing Rooms and other facilities leaves a lot to be desired. I hope we shall see a determined effort this year to remedy this situation.

AN SCOR:

The advent of Scor has given us, in a practical way, the opportunity to promote the cultural area of our heritage which we cherish so dearly. I regret that some Clubs make little or no effort whatsoever to tap this rich source of culture in their parishes. Some clubs do not enter any competitions in our Senior Competitions while others, who do enter competitions hold no local competition, but just select a few at random from the Parish to represent them at the Semi Final stage. When the Scor was first introduced, the idea was that each Parish would hold its own local competitions and have the whole parish involved. Unless our Clubs are prepared to make the effort on this scale I am afraid the Scor is doomed to failure.

Club Officials have come to me with the excuse that it would be impossible to organise such a function in their particular parishes. I couldn't disagree more. You cannot organise anything anywhere unless you try and I can assure you that if you only put a little effort and good will into your local competitions you will make a success of the Scor. Every parish has an almost unlimited pool of talent just waiting to be tapped.

In an effort to stimulate interest in the promotion of the Scor at Parish level a perpetual Trophy, to be known as the Sean O Duir Cup has been presented to the Board by Mr Sean Crowe. This cup will be awarded each year to the Club that has made the greatest effort at parish level. Let us hope that before long every club in the Division will be pulling out all the stops to become the holders of this Trophy. I take this opportunity of congratulating Aravale Rovers and the members of their Novelty Act who won the West, the County, Munster and All-Ireland Honours in 1976.

INSURANCE:

From time to time I have received complaints from players concerning the amount of compensation they received, for injuries sustained on the Playing field. This Insurance Scheme has been in existence for longer than I can remember and I have yet to meet a player who was completely satisfied with the amount of compensation granted to him.

If you compare our scheme with that of any other Insurance Company Scheme, you will find that in the case of all other Insurance Companies their benefits have kept in line with the cost of living, while the G.A.A. scheme has fallen sadly far behind. I think the time has come for Clubs to fully protect their members by having them covered with one of the established Industrial Insurance Companies.

TREASURER:

According to rule our Treasurer Brendan Ryan has to retire this year. I wish to pay him a special tribute for his hard work and dedication to his position over the past three years.

SECRETARY:

I regret very much that our Secretary Michael Maguire has decided to retire due to personal reasons. I have known Michael for a long number of years and long before he was elected Secretary of this Board I looked on him as a dedicated worker and a wonderful organiser, not alone in G.A.A. circles but in many other organisations as well. When he was first elected Secretary I felt confident that he would be an outstanding success. Now at the end of the day, I am pleased to say that he has carried out the exacting duties of his office with greater distinction than I could have possibly imagined.

We have been most fortunate down through the years in having as Secretaries of this Board men of a very high order of competence. Times have changed considerably for a Secretary in recent years and the work load that he has now to carry is very great indeed. We now have more field competitions than ever

before so that in effect the Secretary can seldom call his time his own.

While the number of games has increased, the number of Referees has decreased. Quite often the Secretary has to spend a full day on the phone trying to get someone to referee a match the following day. Then after all his hard work it must be most disheartening for him to be approached by someone after a match with the query: "Where the hell did you get that fellow?"

As well as the increase in field competitions and numerous other activities the work of the Secretary has now become so demanding that his office should be a full time post, if we were able to pay such a person. What we should seriously consider is the appointment of an assistant Secretary and delegate to him certain tasks and responsibilities.

I am very sorry to see Michael retire from his position as it is going to be most difficult to replace him. You will be all pleased to hear, however, that he is not retiring from the G.A.A., that he will continue to take an active interest in our affairs and that he will always be available to help and advise the new Secretary in any way possible. Michael has been nominated for the important post of Central Council representative. I am confident that should he be successful, he would be a very worthy representative indeed. I appeal to all our Clubs to be fully represented at Co. Convention otherwise Michael cannot hope to be successful. It was disappointing in recent years to notice the small number of Clubs from the West that considered it worthwhile being represented at Co. Convention. The Co. Convention is the one and only day each year when the Clubs at grass roots level have an opportunity of airing their views. Yet they fail to make use of this opportunity and for the rest of the year they "sit back and criticise everything that the Co. Board does."

To Michael I say, thank you for a job well done and thanks too for all the help you have given me during my term as Chairman of the

Board and of the Fixtures' Committee.

A special word of praise is due to our P.R.O. For many years West Tipperary was in the wilderness in so far as publicity was concerned. Since we appointed Willie O'Donnell as P.R.O. there has been no longer any problem in this regard and all our games and activities got good publicity in the two local papers.

Last year after I had approached the Sports Editors' of the daily papers and RTE we have since been getting full results of our games on Sunday night radio and in the Monday press. This may not appear all that important to the majority of people living in West Tipperary but to those who are often far from home on a particular Sunday and for the numerous other West Tipperary folk living outside the Division these news flashes are most welcome. To get the results in good time to the Press and Radio means much more work for the P.R.O. Each Sunday evening he has to contact various people throughout the Division for the results of matches and then phone Dublin before the "Stop Press" deadline. This means that he has to make himself available at all times and in all weathers. I thank him for the great service he has rendered the Board during the years.

BORD NA nOG

I thank and congratulate the Officers and members of Bord na nOg for their unsparing zeal and dedicated work on behalf of our Youth both on the Playing field and elsewhere.

DEATHS

We remember with particular sadness at this time Tone Doherty, former Board Chairman and founder member, and Jim O'Connor both of whom were with us at our last Convention. We remember too, Conor Ryan, former Gate Checker, Tommy Ryan, Clounoulty, Pat Doherty, St. Pegasus, Sean Dunne, Cashel and Carrick and all the Gaels of the Division who have passed to their eternal reward. May these souls rest in peace.

I thank all the officers,

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the Club delegates, players and all the other people who contributed so much, in so many ways to the well-being of all aspects of the Association within the Division.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh a chairde.

Willie
Ryan



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2nd. Row, l. to r. : C. Murphy, G. Galvin, J. King, D. Galvin, J. Murphy, S. Tierney, B. Spillane, J. Kennedy.
3rd. Row, l. to r. : B. Bergin, M. Murphy, R. Brislane, J. Delaney, N. Egan, E. Spillane, L. O'Flaherty.
4th. Row, l. to r. : M. Kennedy, J. Ryan, M. Harty, P. King (captain), J. Grace, P. J. Brislane, L. Nolan.

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THE CLONMEL GAA SOCIAL CENTRE

Social Centres are now gradually becoming part and parcel of a well planned G.A.A. playing field. For too long players and supporters had nowhere to assemble in congenial surroundings to discuss their mutual interests and re-live the glories of great teams and outstanding players — local and inter-county.

Even for the ritual filling of a cup it was necessary to repair to the local pub. This caused problems, especially for underage teams, as in the general euphoria following a title win supervision was generally slack. Even for socials, concerts, and scor competitions cold, ill-equipped halls were the order of the day or night. For some years now the G.A.A. was conscious of the need of such centres. For too long the emphasis was on playing together instead of staying together.

The first social centres were opened in the cities — for Dublin it was Na Fianna, in Cork Saint Finbarr's and in Limerick Na Píarsaigh. All these had well appointed amenities indoor and out-

door. Indeed Cork was able to host the Easter Congress some years ago. Following the lead of the metropolitan clubs the large urban areas began to build.

SPORTSFIELD COMMITTEE

In the case of Clonmel it was the Sportsfield Committee which first took the initiative. About two years ago, having already completed a major reconstruction programme on the Sportsfield itself by raising and plastering the boundary walls, new dressing rooms were added with heat, light and showers. Next came a stand, a press-

box and covered shelter for subs and officials. The pitch and sideline seating got a much needed facelift and the sideline was fenced off and like all modern stadia declared a no-go area.

Recognition of these efforts was duly noted in Croke Park and last year Clonmel hosted the All-Ireland Under 21 Football Final — Kerry and Kildare and N.H.L. game between Tipperary and Wexford. The arrangements generally got very favourable mention from the visiting press.

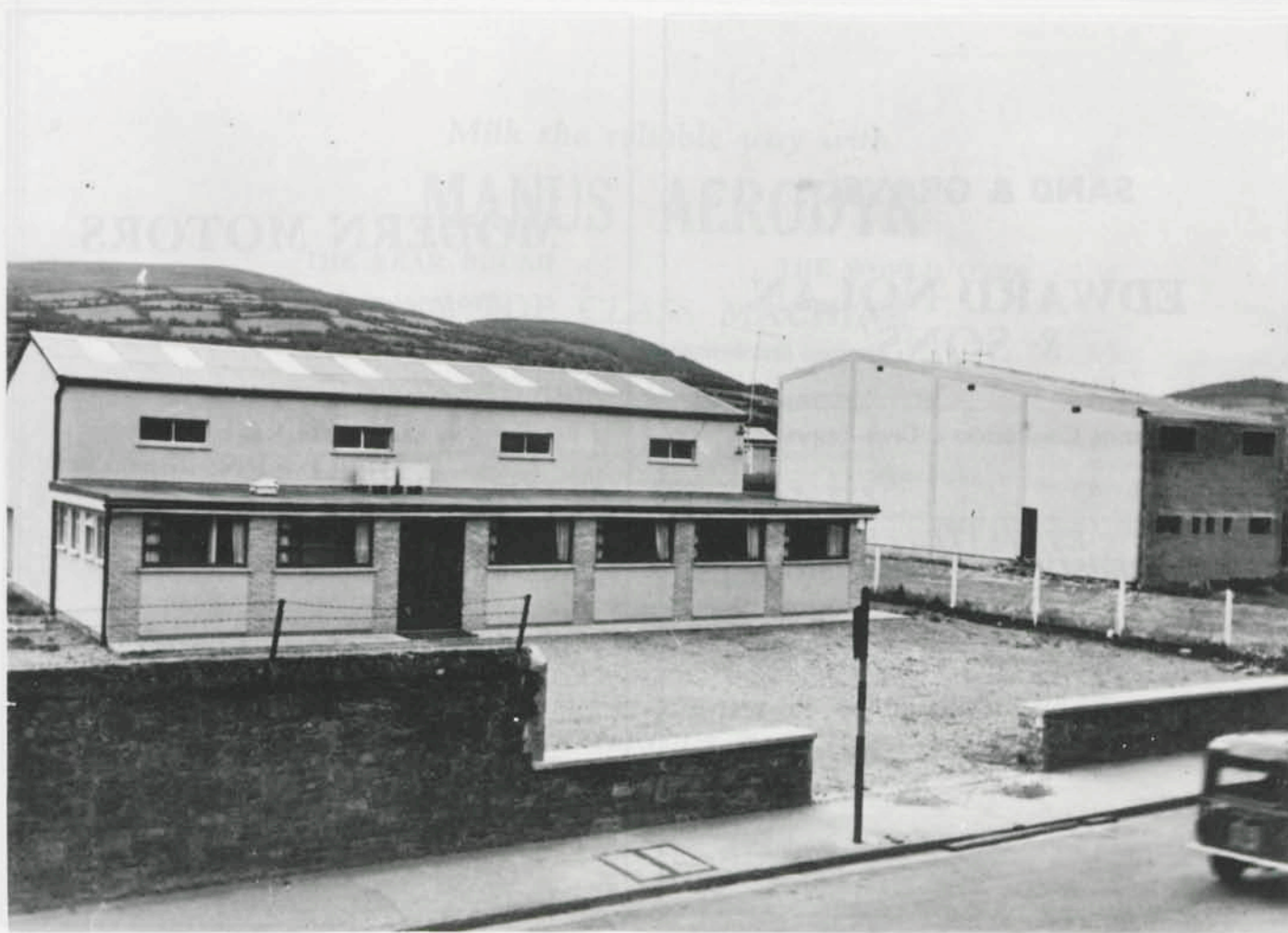
Even before this stage was reached, the Sportsfield Committee with an eye to the future, approached the four G.A.A. Clubs in the Town — Commercial's, St. Mary's, Marlfield and St. Luke's. They discussed the possibility

of building a Social Centre in keeping with an expanding town like Clonmel. The proposal was discussed in detail over several meetings and finally got the unqualified support of all concerned. A twenty-five man Committee was set up with Michael Maher as Chairman and John McNamara as Secretary. It is interesting to note that while a third of the Committee are Clonmel born the remainder came from a wide area including Cork, Clare, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Holycross, Lattin, Killenaule, Hollyford, Borrisoleigh, Gortnahoe, Kilcommon, Moyne-Templetohy, Clerihan and Mullinahone.

FINANCE

Like all projects — finance was the big question. It is true the Sportsfield Committee and the Clubs had been operating a fairly successful bingo over the

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Clonmel Centre

years for their own individual needs and has set aside a sizeable sum for contingency purposes. This money was sufficient to approach a Bank Manager with some confidence or a Financial Controller in Croke Park for a place in the queue. Perhaps we were lucky that our Treasurer was himself a Bank Manager and generally approachable. The financing of the Programme was decided on — a direct appeal for interest-free loans from local firms, business houses and hotels. Also a commitment of £50 or £25 over a five year period — in fact life membership from individuals.

The response surpassed all expectations. In addition Central Council gave a substantial interest-free loan and both the Tipperary County Board and South Tipperary Board gave financial assistance. Thus with about twenty-two thousand pounds it was possible to engage local building contractors Messrs. McGrath & Cahill to

commence work late in 1975. The whole complex was finally completed in the Spring of this year and informally opened on Easter Sunday. Then on 30th June Uachtaran Cumann Luth-Chleas Gael, Con Murphy, performed the official opening and just beat Thurles Sarsfield by a short head.

SPACIOUS COMPLEX

The complex itself, contains a large function room with stage, kitchen, storerooms, showers, T.V. rooms and a well laid out lounge. The facilities at the Centre are now being increasingly utilised by local recreational and cultural organisations. It is the venue for all South Board and Club Meetings. Members have facilities for badminton, volley-ball, table tennis and social evenings. Plans for further development of indoor and outdoor games are presently being considered. Squash and tennis are high in priority. A site adjacent to the centre was given to the Clonmel Hand-

ball Club and already a modern 60 x 30 covered court is now complete offering a further amenity to the youth of the town.

While keeping their separate identities and sporting rivalries the Clubs and Sportsfield Committee are very much aware of their primary objective — the fostering and promotion of Gaelic Games. To this extent they look upon the centre as an additional help to our youth in this respect.

The centre is the first of its kind in the premier county and will it is hoped be a lasting memorial to the hard work, dedication and co-operation of the Gaels of Clonmel and district. Mar a deireann an sean fhocal — "ni neart go cur le ceile."

The following are the full Committee:—

Chairman — Michael Maher
Vice-Chairman — John O'Neill
Treasurer — Denis O'Donoghue
Secretary — John McNamara

Jim Callaghan, Billy Carroll, Mick Egan, Mick Forrestal, John Fitzgerald, John Kavanagh, Dan Kavanagh, Tommy Maher, Tom McCall, Seamus McCormack, Paddy Mullins, Owen Lane, Michael O'Connell, Brian O'Callaghan, Jack O'Dea, Peter Powell, Paddy Quinlivan, Frank Ryan, Ned O'Shea, Tom Thompson.

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OWEN McCANN recalls the golden memories provided by Tipp teams down through the years...

I HAVE a special regard for Tipperary hurling and Thurles. It was in the birthplace of the G.A.A., appropriately enough, that I first saw a Munster senior hurling championship match, and in those days when I was learning at first hand something of the special magic and appeal of the competition, Tipperary provided me with some of my most exciting moments.

I must admit, though that then my sympathies always lay with Cork. That's ironic when one considers that I was reared in Donegal, but life's road has many turnings, and one led me to the banks of the Léeside late in 1949.

That year marked the start of one of Tipperary's many golden periods in hurling. By 1951 they had won three All-Ireland senior championships in succession, and what I remember best of that period is the provincial final of 1951 and the brilliance of Pat Stakelum in particular.

Tipperary and Cork drew a tremendous crowd of 42,337 to the Limerick Gaelic Grounds for that 1951 summit. Played in scorching heat it proved a breathtaking struggle, well in keeping with the best traditions of Southern hurling, with sportsmanship the keynote. In the end Tipperary achieved a hat-trick of provincial titles after an interval of half a century by winning by two points, 2-11 to 2-9.

And Stakelum? Tipperary's then centre half played one of his best games ever in that Southern summit, and was again to the fore when the county retained the Liam McCarthy Cup at Wexford's expense. Moreover, he had a great year over-all, and I can also remember the sheer consistency of his performances again in 1952 that caused me to rank him in my book also the hurler of that particular year.

Surprisingly enough Tipperary did not win out in Munster after the three in a row run until 1958. By then, I had taken yet another turning in life's road and was in Dublin when the Premier county regained the crown with a 4-12 to 1-5 victory

over Waterford.

That was the time when Jimmy Doyle was beginning to make his presence felt on the senior inter-county scene. He won an All-Ireland medal in the top grade that year, and went on, of course, to colour and enrich hurling with his brilliant general play, and dynamic scoring achievements that frank him out as one of the greatest of all time.

In that 1958 championship, Galway had a bye to the All-Ireland final, and were well beaten by Tipperary, 4-9 to 2-5.

Then, there were many

goal-getting technique of Sean McLoughlin. The left full forward hit Tipperary's two goals in that game, and they came within a minute midway through the first half. He sent the first one handed to the net, and then brilliantly palmed home the second, a score that I still believe ranks as one of the best in any All-Ireland final.

Tipperary lost the 1968 All-Ireland final to Wexford, but my goodness, what a commanding figure Mick Roche proved at centre half back in that game! What bright contributions, too, that such

minute point from John Flanagan.

There was magical hurling from Mick Roche at centre half in that game, while one remembers, too, the power of Len Gaynor's play, but Keating still proved my man of the day.

The Grange-Ballybacon dual performer (he is, of course, one of only four men to win Railway Cup medals in hurling and football) was in tremendous sharpshooting form in that 1971 campaign. In all he cracked hom a thundering 3-4 against Limerick at Killarney, and then had a regal "hour" against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final at Birr.

Francis Loughnane picked off some grand long range points in that game, while Tadhg O'Connor and John Flanagan were others to turn on some nice touches, but it was Keating's brilliance that dazzled all. The left full forward finished with 2-12, 1-8 from frees an outstanding achievement by any measurement.

As for the All-Ireland final that year I can still see in the mind's eye Michael Keating playing in his bare feet. First he discarded his boots, and then his socks as he once more proved the real danger man in the Tipperary attack.

Keating helped himself to seven points to prove Tipperary's top scorer in a match that saw Eddie Keher set a new individual recorded scoring achievement in a decider at 2-11.

But even that tour de force was not good enough to save Kilkenny, as the skills of Michael Keating, the quality hurling of Francis Loughnane, the brilliance in goal of Peter O'Sullivan, and progressive hurling of team

Keating... playing in his bare feet!

bright weaves in a splendid All-Ireland double for Tipperary in the early 'Sixties. I remember Liam Devaney's powerful work, first at centre half forward, and later at centre half back, when proving a dynamic match-winner in the 1961 decider against Dublin.

And the brilliance of Tony Wall at centre half shone like a beacon in a day of many stellar exhibitions when Tipperary beat Wexford in a truly memorable final in 1962.

What I remember with most relish from the 1965 final win over gallant Wexford was the

as John O'Donoghue in goal, and Len Gaynor at left half back to the Tipperary effortan effort that was thwarted by two points by a great-hearted Wexford outfit that was ten points in arrears at one stage, and two points behind at the interval.

For my money, 1971 was the year of Michael Keating. Two great goals from his hurley early on in the second half of the Munster final with Limerick at Killarney, and a third about 15 minutes from time were powerful factors in Tipperary's memorable win by a dramatic last

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captain Tadhg O'Connor were invaluable stimulants in a three point win that ensured another All-Ireland championship for Tipperary — and

surprisingly enough their last on record.

Yes, Tipperary teams and countless hurlers from there have provided me with many

golden memories down through the years. Good luck to them all, and here's to the quick return by the county to the top of the

championship ladder, and to many, many more exciting moments and brilliant individual performances in the years ahead!

Tipperary's All-Ireland Senior Final

Winning Teams

HURLING

1887 — J. Stapleton (capt.), M. Maher, T. Maher, A. Maher, T. Burke, Martin McNamara, Ed. Murphy, Jer. Dwyer, Tom Stapleton, Ned Bowe, Tom Healy, Dan Ryan, Jer. Ryan, Pat Leahy, Tim Dwyer, Jack Mockler, Jack Dunne, Tom Carroll, John Leahy, M. Carroll, P. Lambe.

1895 — M. Maher (capt.), E. Maher, Phil Byrne, W. Kendrick, John Maher, D. Walsh, John Walsh, Peter Maher, T. Flanagan, Jas. Flanagan, P. Riordan, Jas. Gleeson, Fergus Moriarty, John Connelly, J. Maher, E. Brennan, W. Devane.

1896 — M. Maher (capt.), J. Maher, P. Byrne, W. Devane, E. Maher, M. Wall, E. Brennan, J. Walsh, J. Condon, J. Connolly, J. Flanagan, T. Ryan, P. Scanlon, T. Flanagan, E. Ryan, P. Doherty, D. Walsh.

1898 — M. Maher (capt.), E. Maher, E. Brennan, J. Walsh, J. Connolly, T. Ryan, J. Ryan, W. Devane, E. Ryan, John Ryan, P. Byrne, W. Dunne, J. Condon, J. O'Keeffe, J. Maher, D. Walsh, T. Flanagan.

1899 — (J. Condon, (Capt.), J. O'Keeffe, W. Gleeson, J. Gleeson, P. O'Keeffe, Jas. O'Keeffe, D. Walsh, M. Maher, J. Ryan, T. Ryan, M. Wall, P. Byrne, W. Dunne, J. Flanagan, W. Gleeson, J. Walsh.

1900 — E. Hayes (capt.), P. Hayes, M. Ryan, M. Purcell, T. Allen, P. Maher, W. Maher, M. Maher, J. Walsh, T. Ryan, E. Maher, W. Gleeson, (2), J. O'Keeffe, M. Wall, T. Semple.

Home final : — E. Hayes (capt.), P. Hayes, M. Purcell, T. Allen, W. Maher, J. Walsh, T. Ryan, E. Maher, W. Gleeson (2), M. Wall, P. Maher, J. Gleeson, T. Semple.

1906 — Tom Semple (capt.), J. Hayes, J. O'Brien, P. Burke, M. O'Brien, T.

Kerwick, P. Brohan, H. Shelley, J. Mockler, T. Kenna, P. Riordan, T. Allen, P. Maher, J. Burke, J. Gleeson, J. O'Keeffe, T. Gleeson.

1908 — T. Semple, T. Kerwick, J. Mockler, J. O'Brien, M. O'Brien, H. Shelley, A. Carew, J. Mooney, T. Kenna, P. Burke, P. Brolan, J. Moloughney, J. Burke, T. Gleeson, M. Dwyer, J. Fitzgerald, P. Fitzgerald.

1916 — J. Leahy (capt.), T. Dwan, J. Doherty, W. Dwyer, T. Shanahan, J. Power, J. Collison, P. Leahy, H. Shelly, J. Murphy, R. Walsh, D. Walsh, W. Dwyer, A. O'Donnell.

1925 — John Leahy (capt.), A. O'Donnell (goal), M. Mockler, M. D'Arcy, J. J. Hayes, M. Kennedy, S. Hackett, J. Power, P. Leahy, P. Cahill, T. Duffy, J. D'Arcy, W. Ryan, P. Power, P. O'Dwyer.

1930 — J. J. Callanan (capt.), J. O'Loughlin, J. Maher, M. Ryan, J. Harney, J. Lanigan, T. O'Meara, (goal), M. Kennedy, P. McKenna, P. Purcell, P. Cahill, M. F. Cronin, T. Butler, T. Leahy, T. Tracey. Sub — J. Heeney.

1937 — T. Butler (goal), D. O'Gorman, G. Cornally, J. Lannigan (capt.), J. Ryan, J. Maher, W. Wall, J. Cooney, J. Gleeson, J. Coffey, T. Treacy, T. Doyle, W. O'Donnell, D. Murphy, P. Ryan, Subs. — D. Mackey, T. Kennedy.

1945 — Jim Maher, J. Davitt, G. Cornally, F. Coffey, M. Murphy, John Maher (capt.), P. Purcell, H. Goldsboro, T. Wall, M. Ryan, T. Doyle, E. Gleeson, John Coffey, A. Brennan, P. Ryan.

1949 — A. Reddan, M. Byrne, A. Brennan, J. Doyle, P. Stakelum (capt.), F. Coffey, T. Doyle, S. Kenny,

P. Shanahan, T. Ryan, M. Ryan, J. Kennedy, J. Ryan, S. Maher, J. Bannon. Sub. — P. Kenny for F. Coffey.

1950 — A. Reddan, M. Byrne, A. Brennan, J. Doyle, J. Finn, P. Stakelum, T. Doyle, J. Bannon, P. Shanahan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, S. Kenny, (capt.), P. Kenny, M. Maher, J. Kennedy. Sub. T. Ryan (for M. Maher).

1951 — A. Reddan, M. Byrne, A. Brennan, J. Doyle, J. Finn (capt), P. Stakelum, T. Doyle, P. Shanahan, J. Hough, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, T. Ryan, P. Kenny, M. Maher, S. Bannon. Sub. — S. Kenny (for P. Kenny).

1958 — J. O'Grady, M. Byrne, M. Maher, K. Carey, J. Finn, A. Wall (capt.), John Doyle, J. Hough, T. English, D. Nealon, T. Larkin, Jimmy Doyle, L. Keane, L. Devaney, L. Connolly.

1961 — D. O'Brien, M. Hassett (capt.), M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, John Doyle, M. O'Gara, T. English, Jimmy Doyle, L. Devaney, D. Nealon, D. McKenna, W. Moloughney. Subs. — T. Ryan for McKenna, J. Hough for O'Gara, S. McLoughlin for Wall.

1962 — D. O'Brien, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. O'Gara, A. Wall, M. Burns, T. English, L. Devaney, Jimmy Doyle (capt.), J. McKenna, T. Ryan, D. Nealon, T. Moloughney, S. McLoughlin, Subs. — L. Connolly for O'Gara, T. Ryan for Jimmy Doyle.

1964 — J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, M. Murphy, (capt.), T. English, M. Roche, Jimmy Doyle, L. Kiely, M. Keating, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, S. McLoughlin. Subs. — M. Loneragan for Maher, L. Devaney for Kiely.

1965 — J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, L. Gaynor, T. English, M. Roche, Jimmy Doyle (capt.), L. Kiely, L. Devaney, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, S. McLoughlin.

1971 — P. O'Sullivan, L. King, J. Kelly, J. Gleeson, T. O'Connor, (capt.), M. Roche, L. Gaynor, P. J. Ryan, S. Hogan, F. Loughnane, N. O'Dwyer, D. Ryan, J. Flanagan, R. Ryan, M. Keating. Subs. — Jimmy Doyle for Hogan, P. Byrne for Flanagan.

FOOTBALL
1889 — G. Kavanagh (capt.), J. Cranly, Joe Ryan, Wm. Ryan, Ed. Ryan, Wm. Ryan, J. Rohan, P. Buckley, W. Shea, R. Whelan, J. Daly, P. Hall, J. Keary, M. Wade, B. O'Brien, P. Ryan, L. Fox, John Ryan, P. Finn, T. Dwyer, P. Glashen.

1895 — P. Finn (capt.), W. Ryan, R. Quane, J. Carew, J. Carey, P. Dwyer, P. Glasheen, J. Heffernan, W. Ryan, M. Finn, M. McNerney, R. Butler, P. Daly, M. Finn, J. Riordan, M. Connery, J. O'Brien.

1900 — J. Tobin, (capt.), P. Moloney, W. McReil, J. Dwane, P. Meyers, M. Walsh, J. O'Brien, R. Quane, R. Hourigan, P. Wall, W. Toole, D. Harney, J. O'Shea, J. Cooney, D. Smyth, P. Cox, I. Haves.

1920 — A. Carroll (goal), J. McNamra, Edwd. O'Shea, G. Lanigan, Jas. Ryan, J. Shelly, W. Grant, M. Barrett, M. Tobin, J. Ryan, J. Doran, G. McCarthy, V. Vaughan, M. Arragan, T. Powell.

Home final : — E. Hayes, (capt.), P. Hayes, M. M. Purcell, T. Allen, W. Maher, J. Walsh, T. Ryan, E. Maher, W. Gleeson, (2), M. Wall, J. P. Maher, J. Gleeson, T. Semple.



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Vice-Chairman: Tom Kirby, Kilruane)
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Treasurer: Pat McGrath (Burgess).

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Co. Board Trustee: Sean O'Meara Lorrha).

Co. Board Members: Michael O'Brien (Silvermines), Niall Williams (Toomevara) Len Gaynor (Kilruane), Paddy Maher (Moneygall).

Co. Appeals Committee: Jack Kennedy (Moneygall), Noel Morris (Borrisokane)

Gate-Checkers: Michael O'Donnell (Portroe, Paddy Casey (Burgess), Tom Sheppard (Kilruane).

Affiliations: Senior Hurling (13), Intermediate Hurling (7), Junior Hurling (19), U.21 Hurling (15), Minor Hurling (16), Senior Football (6), Junior F. No. 1 (7), Junior F. No. 2 (9), U.21 F. (11), Minor F. (9).

A total of 112 teams.

Championships: S.H., I.H., J.H., U.21 H., M.H., and M.H. "B".

S.F., J.F. No. 1, J.F. No. 2, U.21 F., M.F.

A total of eleven championships.

Senior Hurling Championship: The county open draw system was abolished at county convention and so it was back to the old format of the Divisional Finalists qualifying for the county quarter-finals, and just which gave a new impetus to the North Championships.

As a result of a Burgess Motion a weak group of 5 teams in S.H. was introduced for the first time and from this Newport and Toomevara reached the quarter-final stage.

Borrisoleigh and Kilruane qualified out of Group A, with Borrisoleigh reaching the semi-final stage unbeaten. They had emerged victorious over Moneygall in the match-of-the-year on Corpus Christi evening that drew a crowd of about 2,000 people a record for a 2nd round game.

Kilruane survived the strong challenge

of Newport in the quarter-final with a powerful tlast quarter finish to also reach the semi-final proper.

Silvermines were unbeaten in Group B and advanced to the semi-final stage at the expense of Roscrea, Eire Og and Knockheal Rangers.

Roscrea qualified for the quarter-final spot against the winners of the weak groups Toomevara put contrary to all expectations failed to a very spirited "Greyhound" fifteen. Draw for semi-finals and Results — attendance 3,650.

Kilruane 3-14 Toomevara 1-3 — a facile victory for Kilruane, Toome had no answer to their speed and craft hurling ability.

Borrisoleigh 2-6 Silvermines 1-6 — a hard fought game that could have gone either way so Silvermines missed many chances in the last quarter with the breeze.

Final on 4/8/77: Referee: Donie Nealon Attendance: 2,800 — very heavy rainfall for an hour before the game upset the attendance figures and made the ground very slippery. Trophy Grank McGrath Cup.

Result: Kilruane 1-12 Borrisoleigh 2-7 A well fought close game all through Borrisoleigh had a slight lead at half-time but only succeeded in scoring 1 goal in the second half. Kilruane finished the stronger team and with crisp ground play made the openings for the vital points in the final 10 minutes. Seamus Hennessy at centre field and Tony Sheppard with a brilliant late save were the stars of the Kilruane team, who took their first title win in 12 years and the coveted Frabk McGrath Trophy.

Intermediate Hurling Championship (7 teams).

Played on a league system, issue in doubt up to the sixth and last round of the league where victories for Temple-derry over Portroe and for Kildangan over Kilruane ensured their passages to the semi-final stage to join Ballina and Ballinahinch — a very good championship.

Semi-Final results:— Ballinahinch 2-5 Ballina 2-4; Kildangan 2-8 Temple-derry 0-9

Final (Fr. Hewitt Cup) Attendance

1,068 at Nenagh on 9th October. Kildangan 1-4 Ballinahinch 1-4 (Draw) Kildangan lucky to snatch the equalising points in the dying seconds. Ballinahinch had missed many chances with wind advantage in the first half.

I.H.C. Replay on 16th October: Easy victory for Kildangan with Seamus Hogan Noel Seymour and Jimmy Foley in sparkling form — nothing went right for Ballinahinch.

Score Kildangan 2-12 Ballinahinch 1-6 Attendance 1104 Referee for Final and Replay — Denis Floyd.

JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Ten Teams in the senior section for clubs with no senior teams a number of good games.

Silvermines made good progress all the way and beat a fancied Roscrea in the final on this section. Knockshegawna and Temple-derry reached the final of the Junior section with victory going to Temple-derry by 2-10 to 3-2 in an outstanding game of fist time hip to hip hurling at Moneygall.

Final (O'Keeffe's Cup) Attendance 420 Temple-derry 3-9 Silvermines 1-6 an unexpectedly easy victory for Temple-derry over the neighbours and great rivals Silvermines, who failed to reach their earlier form in the championship So, Temple-derry retained the O'Keeffe Cup for the second year in succession.

J.H. Play off:— Kildangan (I.H. Champs had an easy victory over Temple-derry (J.H. Champs) to represent the division the Co. J.H.C.

Score Kildangan 5-8 Temple-derry 0-3

We wish Kildangan every success in the County S.H. Championship and hope that they'll repeat their victory of 1971.

U/21 H.C.: 15 teams and it was decided to have a weak group of 8 teams with the winner to play in the quarter final.

Portroe, with a great fight back from being 10pts down early in 2nd half beat Lorrha in the final of the Weak Group. Portroe lost by the narrow margin of 2 pts to Kilruane in the quarter final under atrocious weather conditions.

Kilruane then accounted for Roscrea in the semi-final and have reached the final for the sixth successive year.

Temple-derry had a good victory over

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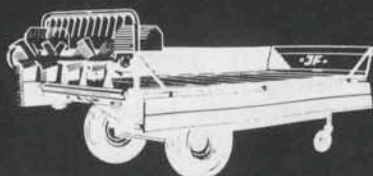
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liberates a large amount of the cellulose by chopping and then "Hard Mixing" sodium hydroxide into the straw.

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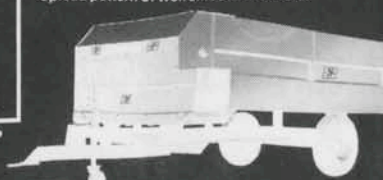
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Silvermines in the other semi-final.

The championship did not give great satisfaction as the concluding stages were played too late in the year in very bad underfoot conditions.

MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP — "B" COMPETITION.

Eight teams were selected for the Weak or "B" competition for the Nealon Trophy. All groups of 4 in the strong and weak sections were played on a League basis to ensure at least 3 games for every team — a vital necessity for players of this age group.

Semi-finals: Silvermines defeated Sh. Rovers narrowly. Templederry defeated Kildangan easily.

Final (Nealon Trophy). Ref. Pat McGrath — Silvermines 3-4 Templederry 3-3.

Silvermines matched victory with a late goal; Templederry had led all the way. Played in a downpour before S.H. Final; very exciting game: Silvermines retained the title.

MINOR H. CHAMPIONSHIP — "A" COMPETITION

Eire Og and Kilruane came through to the semi-finals with full points and were joined by Roscrea and Silvermines, the "B" winners who defeated Portroe by 3pts in an outstanding quarter final game.

Semi-Finals: Eire Og defeated Roscrea easily. Silvermines defeated Kilruane in the final quarter.

Final: Eire Og 4-9 Silvermines 2-5. An outstanding game of hurling. Silvermines led narrowly at half-time but Eire Og proved too strong in the 2nd half and captured the Mrs Hamilton Cup. Final Ref.: Sean O'Meara.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

No game played in '76 or '77 championship, it was decided to play the two championships together in '77 but it

has not as yet commenced; rather unfair to football enthusiasts. It is hoped to run off the championship during the winter months.

U/21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sean Treacy's (Newport-Ballinahinch) have reached the final by virtue of a semi-final victory over Erin's Hope. They are awaiting the winners of the other semi-final. Kilruane and Inane Rvs, both of whom have been very busy with other competitions. It is hoped to compete this before Xmas.

1976 CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPLETED IN 1977

U/21 F. Final '76 Competition — Kilruane defeated Inane Rvs. at Toomvavara in a replay on 20/2/77. Ref. Pat Malone.

J.F. No. 2 '76 Competition. Burgess defeated Shannon Rvs. in the semi-final by 3pts.

Final (at Borrisokane) Burgess 1-4 Ballinahinch 0-2. Hard fought, tough, uncompromising game with Burgess taking their first ever football title.

Co. Championships (completed since '76 Annual). 1976 U/21 H.C. — Kilruane 3-3 defeated Cashel 1-5 in a replay to win their 4th Co. title in a row.

1976 J.H.C. — Burgess defeated Eire Og, West in a replay on December 19th.

1977 S.H.C. — Kilruane defeated Borrisoleigh in a replay Score 1-5 to 0-5. Kilruane's first County title in Senior Grade.

1977 M.H.C. Eire Og 2-5 Loughmore 0-10. M.F.C. Eire Og have reached the County Final.

1977 CHAMPIONS

Winners — Runners-Up

S.H. Kilruane — Borrisoleigh

I.H. Kildangan — Ballinahinch

J.H. Templederry — Silvermines

M.H. Eire Og, Nenagh — Silvermines

M.H. "B" Silvermines — Templederry

U/21 Final: Kilruane v Templederry

J.F. No. 1 Inane Rvs. — Eire Og

J.F. No. 2 Borrisokane — Silvermines

M.F. Eire Og — Erin's Hope

U/21 F. Final: Sean Treacy's v Inane Rvs. or Kilruane

S.F. Unplayed.

1976 CHAMPIONSHIP (Completed in 1977) Winners — Runners-Up

U/21 F. Kilruane — Inane Rvs.

J.F. No. 2 Burgess — Ballinahinch

SCOR '77 WINNERS IN NORTH TIPP.

Rinna Foirne — Eire Og, Nenagh.

Ceol Uirtise — Tadhg MacSearraigh, Borrisoleigh.

Amhranaiocht Aonair — Dolores Ni Bhriain, Moneygall.

Nuachleas — Burgess

Tra na gCeist — Kilruane

Aithriscoireacht — Liam O Riain, Kildangan.

Rinnce Seit — Borrisoleigh

Amhranaiocht Grupa — Moneygall

SCOR '77 — COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Ceol Uirlise — Tadhg Mac Searraigh, Borrisoleigh.

Nuachleas — Burgess

Tra na gCeist — Kilruane

MUNSTER CHAMPIONS

Ceol Uirlise — Tadhg Mac Searraigh

Nuachleas — Burgess

JUNIOR FOOTBALL NO. 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

Seven teams competed for Murphy Cup Eire Og, showed great form in defeating '76 champions Newport in one semi-final and Inane Rvs. (winners of Loser's Group section) defeated Lorrha in the other semi-final.

Final — Inane Rvs 3-13; Eire Og 0-3. Played very early in the season on

NOSTALGIA



The Thurles Sarsfields team who started their great run of County Championship successes 1955, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65. This photo was taken in Thurles prior to the 1955 Final.



A group of Tipperary Hurlers and officials taken in London on the Whitsun Tour of 1965.

Back Row, l. to r.: T. Barrett (Secretary), Gerry Doyle (R.I.P.), J. D. Ryan (Londond and formerly of Carrick on Suir), D. Nealon, J. Stapleton, Liam Devanney.

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30th July but Eire Og showed disappointing form.

JUNIOR F. NO. 2 (Silmartin Cup)

Nine teams participated. Silvermines defeated Portroe in first semi-final. Borrisokane defeated Templeberry in 2nd replay.

Final: — Borrisokane 1-4 Silvermines 1-3.

Great victory for Borrisokane over a more experienced Silvermines. Borriso-

kane very fit and very young team — victory badly needed in the Parish, who are enjoying the best of luck in adult competitions.

MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nine teams competed — Eire Og defeated Inane Rvs., who had virtually unpolished the M.F.C. in the 70's in the first semi-final Eirin's Hope (Borrisokane — Knocksheganne amalgamation) defeated Portroe in the other semi-final.

Final: Eire Og 4-9 Erin's Hope 0-3; Eire Og captured the Gunning Cup and so completed the Minor Double for 1977, emulating the achievements of Roscrea parish for the past three years. Ref: Willie O'Reilly.

Wonderful achievement by Eire Og and a great boost for Gaelic Games in the town of Nenagh. Their great work for Juveniles now bearing fruit and they should soon be a force in Senior ranks once again in both Hurling and Football.

DINNY CAHILL'S MEN

(Air: "She lived beside the Anner")

They tell in song and story of the mighty men of old.
How they fought for fame and glory in Tipperary's Blue and Gold.

Tony Wall and Tony Reddan, there was John and Jimmy Doyle,

Tom McLoughney and Len Gaynor, Jimmy Finn and 'Sweeper' Ryan.

Now, alas their reign is ended and their day is past and gone,
But their memory we will cherish and for ever 'twill live on.
And dear old Tipperary she will soon be 'tops' again,
She can trust in Dinny Cahill and his bold McDonagh men.

Chorus

Oh God bless the great McDonagh's, may their name and fame live on,
Cloughjordan and Ardcroney too, and dear old Kilrune,
Hand in hand we march together on to victory again.
Give three cheers for Dinny Cahill and his bold McDonagh men.

"Twas in glorious seventy-seven that our heroes took the field,
And to Dinny Cahill and his men all others had to yield.

There was Lorrha, Toome and Newport and we saw their colours fall,

Then in Borris town we routed County champions—Moneygall.

On the fourteenth day of August we flocked to Nenagh town
To meet O'Dwyer's men who wore the North Tipp crown.
Old Kilrune went marching on; our banners waved again
And the cheers rang out in victory for Dinny Cahill's men.

Chorus

Then on to 'Semple Stadium' one bright September day,
From Carrig town came mighty 'Swans' who failed to bar our way.

'Sean Treacy's' true, they came there too — their colours fell again,

For none could halt the onward march of Dinny Cahill's men.

Oh, I never will forget the day below in Thurles town,
We played again O'Dwyer's men and won the Count crown.
The 'Old De Wetts' from Heaven came back to cheer us on again

And the Dan Breen Cup — they filled it up, for Dinny Cahill's men.

Con Heffernan, Ardcroney

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GOLDEN OLDIES TO THE FORE IN '77

by Jim Fogarty of
THE TIPPERARY STAR

ABOUT a decade ago a well known athlete competing in the Olympic Games is known to have said — "My goodness this is not sport, this is tough work, and I have never looked on it as sport since I first reached class competition".

He was a brash young man and his cynical comments referred to the professionalism which was creeping into athletics at this high level.

Well in Gaelic games such remarks are well out of character if we are to judge by the number of veterans who still plug along and enjoy the 'joie de vivre' which hurling and football so provide.

This article is penned as a tribute to the men who could be enjoying their favourite sport from the sidelines if they so wished and who already had left a legion of memories that would remain as a prowess to them.

Perhaps it was the Co. Tipperary senior hurling final of 1977 which prompted me to reflect on those great veterans. In that final Len Gaynor and Sean Hyland of Kilruane McDonagh and Borrisoleigh's Matt Stapleton were playing side by side with young lads who were not born, when they first caught a hurley.

The rules have changed, coaching and tactics now play a big part in the world of gaelic sport but the veterans of today and tomorrow will always be something special and there is always a place for them on any club team.

As you grow older in years

limbs are not as nimble as they used to be the reflexes are slower too and the hard grind of training becomes something of a chore.

At the start of the season you have thoughts of retiring and as the boys assemble in any parish for the first gallop of the year you give it a skip but during the following week you are told that you would be foolish to retire.

There is always some new horizon to be conquered. You think again, perhaps your services for just one more year may help your club achieve that ambition.

The family and a part of yourself say you are made to stay on but the heart prompts you to continue. You give it a go for another term; the rust is wiped off the gear and awkwardly you tog out for the first time.

Some youths look at you in amazement but once you get out on the field you again get into the feel of things and you know you are not that brash young lad of a decade or so ago but you are back and enjoy it all, a scene so familiar — the pep talks, the pat on the back after training and the joy of playing and winning, the smell of the embrocation etc. etc.

GOLDEN OLDIES

Those oldies once started retain a youthfulness of spirit, have the kind experienced word for the boy who makes a mistake. They seldom make comparisons between one team and another and never worry of the criticism if things go wrong; they have

been around the scene before and just have one thing in common, to do their own little bit and hope the effort has brought back memories to some who remember them in their prime, or that their steadying influence has helped the youngsters in some way and make them feel better.

At the end of that replayed county Tipp final two men got the acclaim and were shouldered high to the presentation dias in triumph — Len Gaynor that great teak tough full-back-of All-Ireland fame, achieving a life long ambition of winning a county medal, and right full back Sean Hyland, man of the match in the drawn contest and again a hero in the replay.

At the other end of the scale Matt Stapleton, a Harty Cup winner with Thurles C.B.S. in 1956 and also a Tipp county player walked off in the pouring rain shielded by a friend's umbrella. No joy that day for Matt but the consolation that he had contributed his share ... there will be another day.

But the performances of the veterans were not confined to our county final. In the Mid senior hurling championship Paddy Doyle also a player of over twenty years standing answered the call to the blue jersey and contributed his share in those exciting games with Holy-cross.

In the lower ranks Billy Mahoney helped Upperchurch to a Mid No.1 junior

triumph — Billy being a schoolmate of Matt Stapleton in those palmy days of hurling in Thurles C.B.S. in the 1950's. Yet it was another Mid grade which saw the big return and that was in the No. 2 hurling.

Kieran Carey holder of five All Ireland senior medals toggled out to see Knock through to the semi-final and though his mission was in vain Kieran restored a host of memories of the days he played along side Michael Maher and John Doyle in that impregnable Tipp full back line.

Moycarkey-Borris, another beaten semi-final team had the Comans brothers, operating in attack. Paddy, All Ireland cross country runner and a member of the team beaten in the 1963 county final by Sarsfields and a winner of a medal in this particular grade in 1957.

John also a member of that team of '57 and '63 was there too. Liam Hennessy, full forward in 1963, completed the return of a great trio.

There were others too no doubt who came back but who elude us as we write. To all a sincere thank you.

Maybe in the future something special is being saved up for their eventual retirement and surely no one deserves it more — they have contributed to keep the Gaelic Flame wholesome and respectable.

It will be hard to imagine hurling without those boys but no doubt in the years ahead, each will have its crop of veterans to remind us all that there is life still in the old dog.

THE MEN OF SIXTY FOUR

Air Roddy McCauley.

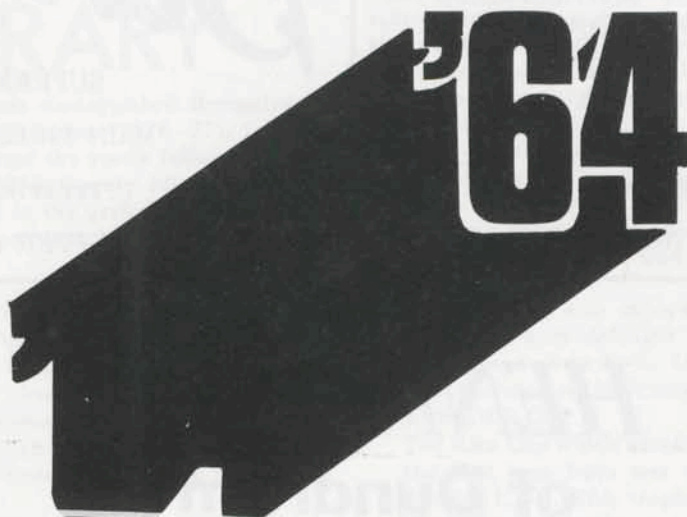
*We often heard our fathers tell
How in the days of old
Of fearless men, from hill and
glen
Who wore the blue and gold.
But there that day, we saw
men play
As ne're was seen before
Sure they did uphold the blue
and gold
Those men of sixty four.*

*O'Donoghue, both staunch
and true
John Doyle still shows them
how
Seven times the premier
award he's won
That star of Knocknagow
And by his side Holycross's
pride
Mick Maher he bars the way
While on the wing, men fear
the swing
Of Carey from Roscrea.*

*Our great half line, did always
shine
Three cheers for Tony Wall
Mick Murphy too, our
captain true
Who always played the ball
And on the wing, the praise
we'll sing
Of Mick Burns who played so
well
And when danger came we
heard the name
Theo English from Clonmel.*

*When the game is won, and
the day is done.
We'll recall the Carrick giant
We'll ne're forget and speak
of yet
How you scored that lovely
point
You tore up field and would
not yield
Like the walls in days of yore
And Babs from Grange, sure
he found the range
With the men of sixty four.*

*From the other side, we'll
recall with pride
The deeds of Jimmy Doyle.
When taking frees, he's at his
ease
He gave us cause to smile.
The Thurles star, taps them
o'er the bar.
With that swing so neat and
cool*



by PATRICK
POWER



Group taken at John Players & Sons Dublin on the day after the All Ireland in 1964.

*Helped on his way, by the
fiery play
Of young Kiely from
Glengoole.*

*McLoughlin too, the brave
and true
The net sure he did find.
When he jumped in the air,
just outside the square
And then left Ollie blind.
Then Mackey bold, like the
star of old
Thru' Kilkenny's backs he
tore
And Donie Nealon's three,
will make history
For the men of sixty four.*

*Then Devaney came to add
his name,
To that band so loyal and
true,
Tho' he failed to score, he did
far more
And his presence they well
knew
When like a flash, he made a
dash
And placed Nealon for that
score.
Mickie Lonergan too, we'll
remember you,
With the men of sixty four.*

*O'Sullivan, the brave Pat
Ryan,
And the lad from Kilruane,
Len Gaynor is that hero's
name,
Who shattered with the
twenty one.
They took their seat prepared
to meet,
The challenge from the Nore.
Now their names are engraved
in history's page
With the men of sixty four.*

*Now the year is gone, and the
title won.
And we can proudly say.
That you played the ball,
both one and all,
And carried off the day.
Now play the game, keep up
your name,
And Please God if we're alive,
We will see you in that
twenty first,
In the coming sixty five.*

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THE COLLEGES SCENE IN TIPPERARY

Once more Tipperary schools distinguished themselves on the College hurling scene during (1976-77). Great interest was generated amongst the youth following the brilliant showing of the 1976 County Minor hurling team and this was reflected in the performances of the various schools in their competitions.

THE HARTY CUP

The Harty Cup, which is Munster's premier hurling competition, has not adorned a Tipperary sideboard since 1959 but last year saw a determined effort by Tipperary schools to try to rectify that situation. Three Tipperary schools tried their luck but success did not come their way. Cashel C.B.S. were first out and on a wet pitch at Bansha on an October evening they lost to famed Farrenferris in Cork after a fine exciting game 4-8 to 2-8.

In the next round it was Farrenferris's turn to take on Templemore C.B.S. This game was played in Emly's fine grounds on November 24th and after a very exciting game the teams ended level. The replay was fixed for Emly on December 8th. This time a big crowd was present to see an

absorbing struggle. In the drawn game the Templemore boys rallied from being eight points in arrears to force a draw. This time Templemore C.B.S. carried the game to the Cork boys and after a half an hour led 1-7 to 1-4. The second half was fought out score for score until about two minutes from the end when as a result of a misunderstanding Farrenferris got through for the winning goal. The final score was 3-9 to 1-11. So both Cashel's and Templemore's interest in the "Harty" ended for (1976-77). This was the first time both schools had entered this competition and while **neither** won the trophy both schools won many admirers for their performances.

Thurles C.B.S. who enjoyed great success in the Harty in former years were defeated by a strong Sullivans Quay team on the score 4-9 to 3-8. Interest in the Harty having ended the three schools set their targets on other trophies.

THE RICE CUP

The Rice Cup which usually arouses great interest among the first year boys was won this year by the famed Thurles C.B.S. This trophy commemorates the founder of that great teaching order. It is participated for by all Christian Brothers schools in Munster excluding the

Sean O Costagain



Templemore C.B.S. Fitzgerald Cup Champions 1977.

Back Row left to right: Br. Seaver (Principal), Mickey Walshe, Jim Kennedy, N. Fogarty, Pat McGrath, Dick Stapleton, Peter Brennan, Liam Farrelly, Eamon Cody, -P. Cormack, Brendan Russell, Sean

Costagiam (School Trainer).

Front Row left to right: Joey Sweeney, Tom McGrath, Francis McGrath, John Stakelum, Tom Reid, Phil Bourke (captain), Bob Ryan, Jim Maher, Pat Hassett, Joe Bourke, Mick Ryan and Pat Treacy.

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Cork City C.B.S. schools. Also included was Callan C.B.S. and Kilkenny C.B.S. Under the excellent training and coaching of Br. Whistler and Br Donovan, Thurles C.B.S. emerged victors after two very exciting games with Limerick C.B.S. on the score 1-12 to 2-5. So Thurles C.B.S. are champions of Munster in under 14 hurling and the future looks bright for the Mid Tipperary school.

Perhaps the glory days of the forties and fifties are on the way back. Let's hope so because Tipperary needs you. The Thurles team was captained by Sean Gleeson from Boherlahan. It also included the Hayes twins from Clonoulty who helped their native parish to Co. under 15 honours later in that year. Other stars on the Thurles team were Paddy and Ruairi Divan, P.J. Kavanagh, John "Speedy" Kennedy and Moycarkey's David Fogarty.

KINNANE CUP

The Kinnane Cup which is a Munster under 18 hurling competition was retained by Cashel C.B.S. In the Semi-Final, Cashel was held to a draw by Rathluirc C.B.S. but later in the replay they emerged victors. So the Final was an all Tipp affair with Nenagh C.B.S. attempting to take the trophy to North Tipp. After a satisfactory game Cashel emerged victors. Cashels best players were All Ireland minor medalists Pat Power who captained the team, Cormac Bonner, Liam Maher, Cyril O'Donnell and Matthew Corcoran. Nenagh's best were Conor Ryan, Reidy and Phillip Kennedy.

The Cashel victory was another demonstration of the fine work this school has been doing down the years for our National games. While Cashel's victory was sweet one is inclined to feel sorry for Nenagh who yearly try their best but have failed to make the break through. Last year we witnessed a great upsurge of interest in Nenagh C.B.S. which was due in no small way to the coming of Upperchurch man Brother Perkins to the school. With willing help from Martin Slattery and Vincent Coyne great strides were made. Let's hope the good work will continue and that success in the form of some trophy will shortly be theirs.

CORN MHIC RUAIRI

The Corn Mhic Ruairi a Munster under 17 hurling competition found its way to Suirside in the south-east of the County when Carrick-on-Suir C.B.S. accounted for a very strong and resolute team from Macroom in the Colleges' final. This victory was a welcome reward for the hard work and dedication of Borrisleigh born Christian Brother Davy Ryan and his helpers. It also proves that with proper coaching and effort that success can come your way.

The two neighbouring counties were represented on this victorious side. This group of boys had never previously won any major competition as a group yet their spirit and determination grew with each outing.

Although regarded as only having an outside chance they had a convincing win over Castlemartyr in the first round, the score being 6-6 to 0-6. This followed with victories over Rochestown and Shannon Airport so the stage was set for the final showdown with Macroom. After a closely fought game the Cup belonged to the Carrick boys. Carrick had some outstanding players amongst them were Ralf Callagan, who afterwards played at centrefield for the Tipp minors, Gerry Organ, Pat Foley, John Hunt and Paddy Dunne who later played with Waterford minors.

Kilkenny was represented on this team by the Piltown cousins Sean and John Morris. So Carrick-on-Suir having tasted success on the Munster Colleges scene are all out to keep up the good work. Let's hope they do so and my wish is that some other schools in South Tipp will show the same application and dedication. If they do, they too will put their names on the Munster Colleges honours list and the hurling scene in Tipperary will be all the better.



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CORN PHARSIAIGH

The Corn Pharsaigh Munster under 15½ hurling rests this year in Templemore C.B.S. This is the third year in succession that the Templemore boys have won through. In the first round of the competition Templemore were victors over a disappointing Mount Sion team. The Semi-Final saw Templemore playing Nenagh C.B.S. and after a hard game Templemore emerged victors and so qualified for the Munster Final.

Cashel having won through their section proved worthy opponents and after as fine a game of hurling as one could wish to see Templemore were winners 4-9 to 3-6. At half time Cashel led 8 points but a brilliant second half really saw Templemore come out on top. For this victory Templemore owe much to the outstanding displays of Jim Maher, Noelle Fogarty, Pat Treacy and Bob Ryan. Cashel had outstanding displays from Devane and Ryan.

MORE SUCCESSES

The two principal trophies on the home front in Tipperary are The Canon Fitzgerald Cup and The Croke Cup. Both these trophies were won this year by Templemore C.B.S. so it looks as if there are many fine young hurlers in The mid Tipp Nursery.

The Croke Cup is an under 16 hurling competition for Christian Brothers schools in Tipperary. The finalists this year were Thurles C.B.S. and Templemore C.B.S. Thurles



Carrick-on-Suir C.B.S. Winners of Corn Mhic Ruairi 1977

were holders of the trophy but after a hard hours hurling the Croke Cup travelled back to Templemore. The score was 5-9 to 3-8. In the Final Templemore had outstanding displays from Peter Brennan, Pat Cormack, Eamonn Cody, John Maher, Noel Fogarty and the Captain Pat McGrath. Thurles's best were Tom O'Connell, Willie Purcell, Sean Gleeson and Paddy Maher.



Cashel C.B.S.

Kinnane Cup Winners 1977

Back Row left to right: Tommy Fitzgerald, John G. Murphy, Francis Gleeson, Dermot O'Connor, Cyril O'Donnell, John Devane, James Ryan, John Kennedy.

Centre Row left to right: Walter Ryan, Cormac Bonner, Michael

Freaney, Liam Maher, Paul Quirke, Dick Ryan, Brother O'Grady (Trainer).

Front Row left to right: Donal Morrissey, Pdraig Ryan, Mathew Corcoran, Pat Power (captain), Seamus Delahunty, John Fitzgerald, Maurice Ryan.

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The Canon Fitzgerald Cup is Tipperary's schools championship. All post primary schools in Tipperary are eligible to take part. This competition was the brainchild of the Tipperary Association in London who were concerned about under age hurling in Tipperary. They presented this magnificent trophy to commemorate a Tipperary priest who spent his life working amongst the Irish in London.

SMALL SCHOOL'S EXAMPLE

Last years competition was well up to previous years and many fine games were played. In the Semi-Finals Templemore C.B.S. defeated a gallant Newport team after a fine game of hurling at Holycross. While Templemore were victors Newport won many admirers with a fine display of good ground hurling. Newport V.S. is a small school but lack of numbers appears not to hinder the North Tipp boys. Many bigger schools in Tipperary could well follow the example of Cyril Gleeson and his team. While Newport had no success in the Canon Fitzgerald Cup they succeeded in winning the North Tipp Vocational Under 18 Championship.

The other Semi-Final saw Cashel C.B.S. and Thurles V.S. in action and after a good game of hurling Cashel C.B.S. emerged victors.

The Final between Templemore C.B.S. and Cashel C.B.S. was a repeat of the ('75-'76) Final but this time the Mid Tipp boys were victors and Phil Burke brought back the trophy to Templemore for the second time since the competition commenced in 1970. Templemore's best players were Pat Hassett, Peter Brennan, Michael Ryan, (Borrisleigh), Pat McGrath, Connor Coady, and Noel Fogarty. Cashel's best were Liam Maher, James Ryan, and D. Morrissey.

Since this competition was started in 1970 many fine hurlers have been blooded in it, amongst the best players to figure were: Michael and John Doyle Holycross, John and Tommy Grogan, Pat Power, P.J. Maxwell and Joe Minogue (Cashel), Eamonn O'Shea Borrisokane V.S., Pat Ryan, Brendan Kenny, Seamus and Jim Bourke, Michael McCormack and Pascal Ryan Templemore.

DESIRED EFFECT

As you can see from the above list the competition has helped some players who figured prominently for Tipperary teams afterwards so the idea of Tipp's London Association is having the desired effect. Since the Canon Fitzgerald competition started Cashel C.B.S. were winners on three occasions, Templemore C.B.S. were twice winners and Thurles C.B.S. and Borrisokane V.S. each won it once.

This year a great effort has been made to get all



Thurles C.B.S. Rice Cup Winners 1977.

Front Row left to right: John Kennedy (Sarsfields), John Comerford (Drom), P. Maher (Moycarkey), Sean Gleeson (Boherlahan), Michael Troy (Moyn), T. Walshe (Holycross), Eamon Stakelum (Sarsfield). Middle Row left to right: Thomas Ryan (Moycarkey), Eamon Darmody (Moycarkey), Jim Moloney, Pat Fogarty (Gortnahoe), P. J. Ryan (Holycross), Ger Stakelum (Sarsfield), Paddy Dwan (Holycross), Ruairi Dwan (Holycross).

Back Row left to right: Tommy Brennan (Drom), Michael Dwan (Holycross), David Fogarty (Moycarkey), Jimmy Leahy (Moycarkey), Pat Hayes, Joe Hayes (Clonoulty), A. J. Callanan (Sarsfield), John Ryan (Littleton), P. J. Kavanagh (Sarsfields), C. Carroll (Sarsfields).

Tipperary schools into the competition and I think we are going to have a super competition. The Tipperary Co. Board wishing to help the schools in every way called a special Co. Board meeting on September 12th to discuss the competition and after a fine open discussion it was decided to change the format of this years competition. A strong section and a weak section was formed with the winners of each being presented with 20 hurleys with the compliments of the Co. Board. As a result of the gesture of Mid Tipp Board Chairman Tom O'Hara a trophy and set of plaques will be presented also to winners of the weak section. As a result of the meeting the number of teams participating this year rose from 11 to seventeen so let's hope for a very successful years hurling.

BR. O'GRADY

Before I conclude I would like to wish Br. O'Grady every success and good wishes in his new appointment in Synge St. Dublin. During his stay in Tipperary he contributed an enormous amount both to Colleges and inter-county hurling. While on the Colleges scene will miss him I am sure that his wonderful talent, dedication, competitiveness and sportsmanship will be an everlasting example and inspiration to us.

REFEREES

No account of school hurling would be complete without a word of praise for those unselfish men who make themselves available during school hours to referee games. As you are aware most school games are played on weekdays but we in Tipperary are very fortunate in having fine referees always available to officiate. On behalf of the Colleges I would like to say a sincere thank you to George Ryan, John Moloney, Joe McNamara, Sean O'Meara and Liam Ryan Holycross who are always willing to help out even at the most awkward of times and at the shortest notice.

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MILESTONE

The Senior Football decider marked a milestone in the history of the Kilsheelan club who staged the final as a commemoration of the opening of their sportsfield in 1952.

The club produced an attractive souvenir programme for the occasion and left no stone unturned in their efforts to make Final day an outstanding success.

Unfortunately, weather conditions proved far from pleasant but even more disappointing was the display of the local side who went under by fifteen points to a rampant Clonmel Commercial.

As always the Intermediate Championships attracted considerable support and provided a high level of entertainment. A highly impressive

Ballingarry side that had skilful hurlers in MICHAEL SPARROW, MARTIN and MATTY BRENNAN, DAN SHELLEY, JOHN PURCELL and the MOLLOYS, took the hurling title by defeating keen rivals and 1976 conquerors Ballybacon Grange in Fethard.

EXCITING AFFAIR

The football final was a very exciting affair with NEWCASTLE just holding out against the determined late challenge of BALLYPOREEN. NEWCASTLE'S stars were MICHAEL POWER, PAT LONERGAN, TONY FITZPATRICK, GERRY O'SHEA, MICHAEL HALLINAN AND FINBARR HICKEY.

In the junior grade Grangemoockler had a year to remember. They beat all before them in the football league and championship. They only

failed by a single point to Newcastle in the play off to decide the Division's representatives in the county championship.

Their sister club, Ballyneale reached the hurling decider but failed to a very strong Cahir side which later gave Ballingarry quite a good battle.

The Killenaule-Mullinahone combination, Young Irelands, seemed set for a clean sweep in the under-age grades when they reached all four finals.

In the end, however, they had to be satisfied with the minor football crown which they won by defeating Carrick Swan. Clonmel St. Mary's conquered Young Irelands in a great minor hurling final and brought off the double in Under-21 hurling — the first time this crown was brought to Clonmel.

At the time of writing, 160 games have been played in South Tipp Division since February last. These attracted a total attendance of approx 17,000 patrons who yielded gate receipts of approx £6,000.

All championships in the Division were completed by mid October and only two cubs, Carrick Davins in Senior Hurling and Commercial in U-21 Football succeeded in retaining their titles.

For the first time the Senior Hurling Championship was played on a League basis and proved very successful. The Carrick clubs Swan and Davins met on three occasions, the honours being divided until Davins succeeded in busting their great rivals in a highly entertaining final.



Nenagh Eire Og Hurling Team. Winners of Co Tipperary Minor Championship 1977.

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ROUND-UP CONTINUED

YOUNG TALENT

Clonmel Commercials Under-21 footballers were not hard pressed to take the title and players like CYRIL MURPHY, ANTHONY McDONAGH, PAUDIE O'NEILL, FERGIE HANLEY and TOMMY WALSH went on to star in the Senior grade and prove themselves exceptional.

A notable event in the Division during the year was the official opening by President Con Murphy of the spacious Clonmel G.A.A. Centre — a joint venture of Clonmel sportsfield committee and Commercials, St. Mary's, St. Lukes and Mark-field clubs.

The centre has become the base of the Association in the Division and its many amenities are being patronised to the full.

The year also saw the further development of many

of the venues within the Division. St. Patrick's club opened their fine new dressing rooms at Cloneen whilst similar amenities in Cahir and Newcastle are nearing completion.

The Gaels of South Tipperary can look back with satisfaction on a year of progress.

SOUTH TIPPERARY BOARD

1977 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

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<i>Senior Football</i>	Clonmel Commercials 4-12 Kilsheelan 1-6
<i>Inter Hurling</i>	Ballingarry 2-15 Ballybacon Grange (holders) 2-3
<i>Inter Football</i>	Newcastle 0-9 Ballyporeen 1-5
<i>Junior Hurling</i>	Cahir 5-14 Ballymeale 1-4
<i>Junior Football</i>	Grangemockler 1-5 Carrick Davins 1-3
<i>21 Hurling</i>	St. Mary's 1-11 Young Irelands (holders) 1-9
<i>21 Football</i>	Commercials (holders) 2-14 Young Irelands 2-3
<i>Minor Hurling</i>	St. Mary's 2-10 Young Irelands 1-7
<i>Minor Football</i>	Young Irelands 1-9 Carrick Swan 0-5

1977 LEAGUES — (FINALS)

<i>Junior Hurling (1976)</i>	Cahir 4-10 Mullinahome 1-3
<i>Junior Hurling (1977)</i>	Cahir v Ballymeale to be played.
<i>Junior Football (1977)</i>	Kickhams 4-4 Grangemockler 2-10 (replay to be arranged)
<i>Senior Football (1977)</i>	Commercials v Fethard or Moyle R.
<i>Inter Football (1976/77)</i>	St. Patrick's v Ballylooby
<i>Inter Hurling (1976/77)</i>	Ballingarry v Newcastle.

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LITTLE GAELS TALES

by Br. Joseph Perkins

*Let cowards fly and
shoneens cry
And with their talk bewitch
Boys, don't forget he's
living yet,
The hurler on the ditch.*

When Michael Cusack was asked what his real message was to the Irish people he promptly replied: "Get off your knees".

This is what Brother O Caithnia tells us anyhow and he should know. I suppose there is no scholar in Ireland so well versed in the history of Hurling than this great Corkman, now living in Dublin. His thesis in Irish on "Hurling" still lies (1977) in Croke Park unpublished, "unhonoured and unsung".

No man understands better the subtle, deep and complex mind of the man from Carron, Co Clare, than An Br. O Caithnia. Let's hope he will be asked (when his international work is published) to write the life of Michael Cusack — a man who certainly was no hurler on the ditch.

CLUB STRUCTURE

My first work as County Tipperary G.A.A. Youth Officer was to do a survey on "Club Structure". Too many Clubs were found to be weak in many areas. We have plenty of Clubs but the condition of many of them was just "stable" instead of "developing"; the Committee members were classified as "Active" instead of "Very Active".

From year to year some Clubs make very little effort to organise their forces or seek new workers. They must go out and look for them, make the personal approach and bring them along to their A.G.M. and set up Sub-Committees, subject to the Officers of the Club like the following Committees: Ladies Committee, Publicity, Fund-raising, Historian, Scor, Referees, Juvenile, Selectors for each Grade, Publications, Equipment maintenance, Transport, Cultural, etc. etc. etc.

The more people working for the Club the stronger the Club.

THE CLUB—A PYRAMID

The Club may be compared to a Pyramid. Our Juveniles — the real foundation — lie at the base. The wider the base the bigger the Pyramid. The more Juveniles in a Club, the bigger the Club. This depends also on how those Juveniles are handled. There must not be too much Competition; their interest and growth must be sustained e.g. winning too much is bad for them and losing too many matches is bad for morale. Where many Clubs are found wanting is at the Under sixteen Grade. Here lies a gap — here is where the Pyramid's structure is damaged.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

I have no hesitation in stating that the cause for dissatisfaction in the standard of hurling in the County lies in our neglect of the Schools and our failure to see what they were doing for the County in the Past. Tipperary had organised their County at Juvenile and School level before any other County. In the thirties we had the Rural Schools, and even the Great War in the Forties did not stop them playing matches all over the County. I myself travelled in a horse and trap from Upperchurch to Clonoulty and from Thurles C.B.S. to Cashel. Our Minors were "tops" in these years and later.

Our devoted schoolteachers and Christian Brothers spent hours coaching and training us. With "Free Education" they are no longer "free" to coach them in the evenings.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

All is not lost; there's a bright glow on the horizon. There was a "HURLING BLITZ" of Primary Schools in the North and Mid Division. Twenty-five schools took part in McDonagh Park, Nenagh, in May, in a very successful

hurling Festival. Here we had 13 a-side, 11 a-side, 9 a-side, and 7 a-side matches (with bamboos as goal-posts). Where there was not enough boys in a particular school some girls stepped in to "man the bearna — baol"; and right well did they play — and loved every minute of it. We hope to have many more inter-school matches in the future, in North, Mid, South and West.

POST PRIMARY

Where there is a strong Post Primary School Nursery, hurling is strong in the neighbouring Parishes. The County Board has now taken more interest in the Canon Fitzgerald Cup, and with the new format of its Competition we have more small Post Primary Schools taking part. Still these schools need more financial aid, both from our County Board and from the Grants now given by the Department of Education and being disbursed through the Vocational Education Committee for Youth and Sport in the County.

COACHING

Enough time is not being spent nowadays on coaching or training teams. Neither do young lads spend enough time hurling on their own or practising the basic skills.

We also have too many competitive matches. When training teams in the past (now we call it coaching) we used spend more hours hurling, telling the young players what to do, how to do it, and we had plenty of time to show them. Now young lads and "trainers" are not satisfied unless they are playing competitive matches. So, we must go back to the "old-fashioned" training or rather, do more coaching, and practise the basic skills. Every school and Club have the excellent film-strip or Slides produced under the direction of Br. M.V. O'Grady and made by Ceird Cheamara Teoranta, Cashel. The price is £3.75. It is a Visual Aid that

just cannot be neglected in any real Educational Establishment or Cultural Society.

FIELDS OR PLAY-GROUNDS

A few weeks ago I was speaking of the necessity of a little field adjacent to the school. Another County man butted in immediately and said: "There's no need at all, sure Babs Keating learned nearly all his football on a gravelly school yard". Just my point: he had a little patch to play on, and his teacher was a man interested in our Gaelic Games. I'd be happy if the teacher let them play against the gable-end of the school. More important than the actual size of the pitch is the fact that a young lad brings his hurley along to school and hurls a tincan going home. Where I usually saw Jimmy Doyle playing as a very young boy (when I was cycling into the C.B.S. with my hurley on my bike) was against the entrance to the Semple Stadium, about fifty yards from his own house. His father, the faithful Gerry, R.I.P. was his coach.

Tony Wall, the first and greatest of our modern coaches, says in his book on "HURLING" published in 1965:

"THE hurling I had learned and the style I had developed was not as effective among the men as it was among the boys ... I came to the conclusion that these faults would have to be eliminated as far as possible, and that I would have to learn to play the ball much faster and in a greater variety of ways. During the years since then, I have worked consistently at improving every aspect of my game. I watched other players closely. I analysed the game as much as I could and I practised, practised, practised."

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Tony Wall was his own coach. Every hurler or at least every home should have a copy of his Book. IT MUST BE REPRINTED.

HURLEYS:

The new synthetic hurley is the answer to many years of prayer. Many grown-ups have criticized it and young lads like to have a hurley similar to the one their Seniors have. Give them a taste of the plastic and they'll say its "fantastic". My own wish for the New Year is that we will have it in all sizes suitable for Juveniles. It is safe and endurable and in the long run it is cheaper than the ash hurley. Most of the ash hurleys we have been getting were badly shaped.

Ciste na Banban and most other Hurley Manufacturers are willing now to use a Tipperary pattern when supplying hurleys to the County. It is a great idea to have a Central Depot like the "Hogan Hurley House" in Croke St., Thurles, where a plentiful supply of sub-

sidised hurleys may be had the whole year round. Let's hope the Government will lift the heavy V.A.T. on hurleys which should not be taxed as for other Sports Goods. There is something more valuable involved here. The game of hurling is being promoted not only to give Sport to many, but in order to preserve part of our great Cultural Heritage. Why kill the Game that produces a GOLDEN PEARL.

1984:

Hurling was never as widespread in County Tipperary. It is being played now in every Parish. Our towns are thriving our Rural Parishes are as strong as ever; our schools are active and people are aware of our Premier position. We are a proud people, not arrogant; we are true to our traditions, our culture and our Pastimes. Come 1984, when we celebrate the Centenary of the birth of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, Tipperary, like Dr Croke, will be "Unconquered and Unconquerable".

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MID TIPPERARY GAA AFFAIRS

by Liam Ryan

As we come to end of yet another year in the Division, 1977 can be looked upon as a successful an outstanding year.

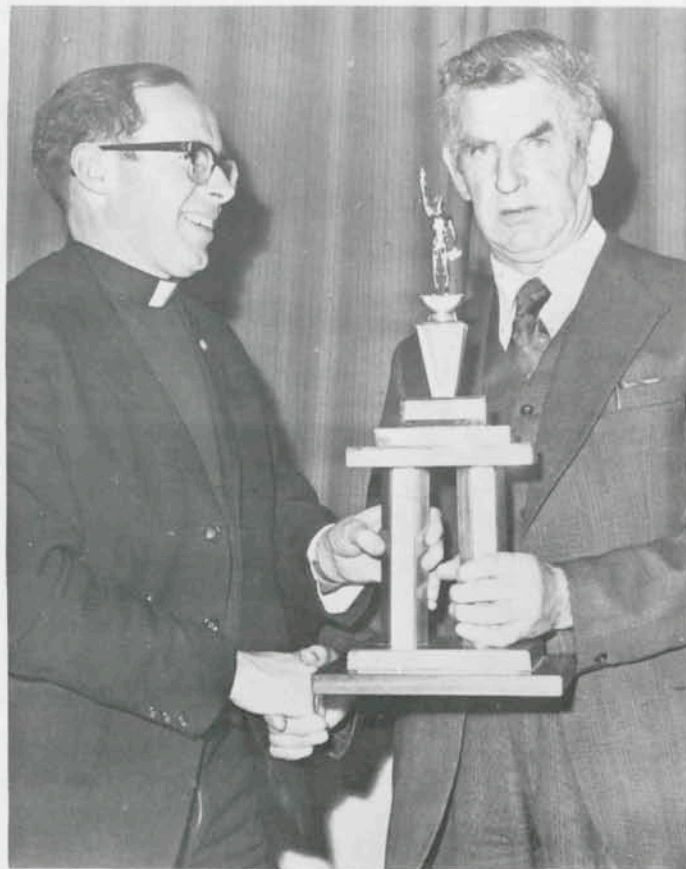
With the return to the system where the Divisional finalists competed in the County Championships a system which has brought out the best in the Division, the Senior Hurling Championships dominated the years activity. We saw true Mid Divisional Hurling in all our championship games and as a result the crowds returned in large numbers.

Mid Tipperary Hurler of the Year 1976. Phil Lowry Upperchurch/Drombane receiving his award from Mid Tipperary Chairman Thomas O'Hara, at a reception in the Anner Hotel. The Citation reads:

"For his gentlemanly conduct both on and off the field. His contribution to his native Upperchurch and to newly formed Oliver Plunketts was immense. He is a first and popular winner of the award."



A presentation by Mid Tipperary Senior Board Chairman to Mid Tipperary Bord na Og Chairman Father O'Ruairc, to be presented for Mid Tipperary Bord na Og award for the club of the year award at juvenile level.



THURLES SARSFIELDS

The club affiliated teams in all Divisional Competitions, contesting the Senior Hurling and minor Hurling Finals. The highlight of the year for the club was the opening of their Local Centre by the President of the Association Con Murphy on October 30th.

MOYCANKLEY/BORRIS

Out of the limelight for some years — great efforts being made by the club to regain former glory and a proud tradition.

HOLYCROSS/BALLY-CAHILL

The highlight of the year for the club was the defeat of Thurles Sarsfields. The meeting of both clubs always serves up good hurling.

1977 was no exception. The clubs met on three occasions at Senior level, the first a win for Sarsfields, the second game a draw, the third a win for Holycross. The club also contested the minor Football and under 21 Hurling Finals.

BOHERLAHAN/DUALLA

Boherlahan was the home of hurling in Tipperary for many years. The club has hit a lean patch in recent years. They lost to Upperchurch/Drombane in this year's Junior Hurling Final, with whom they were amalgamated in Senior Hurling under the banner of Oliver Plunketts.

The club took the N2 Junior Hurling title this year. steady progress is being made on their new ground in the heart of the Village.

MOYNE/TEMPLETUOHY

Moyne/Templetouhy became the Senior Hurling King Pins of the Division, when they defeated Thurles Sarsfields in a great Final and so became Divisional Champions for the second year in succession.

The club fared badly in under age Competitions.

UPPERCHURCH/DROMBANE

The club are Junior Hurling Champions of the Division for the second year in

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M. Troy, Moyne/Templetohy in jubilant mood after his club had won the Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship and the Johnny Leahy Cup for the second year in succession. Also in the photo are Tom O'Hara, Mod Tipperary Senior Board Chairman.



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Upperchurch/Drombane became Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling Champions and holders of the Tommy Treacy Cup for the second successive year when they defeated Boherlahan/Dualla in the Junior Hurling Final played at Semple Stadium.

Famed Tipperary hurler Tommy Treacy presenting his own Cup to inter County hurler and Upperchurch/Drombane captain Phil Lowry following the Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling Final. In centre of photo is the chairman of Mid Tipperary G.A.A. and former county chairman Thomas O'Hara.



succession. Juveniles of former years are the backbone of this team. Here again this club are presently developing their new grounds with big development plans in the pipeline.

LOUGHMORE/ CASTLEINEY

This club has given dedicated attention over the years to the Juveniles and teenagers of the parish. They became County Minor Hurling Champions in 1976 — when Tipperary became All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions.

This year the club has won the County under 16 Hurling Championship. They are still in close contention for the County Senior Football title and are still in the Minor Football and under 21 Hurling Finals. We see from the success of this club in recent years what care and attention to Juveniles can achieve.

TEMPLEMORE

Templemore is now becoming a household name in Colleges Competitions. Templemore C.B.S. has become a great hurling nursery in the Division. The clubs Senior Footballers went down narrowly in the County Senior Football Competition.

CLONMORE

Clonmore who were expected to be strong contenders for the Divisional Junior Hurling this year were not the force of former years.

KILLEA

This club fields a team in the N2 Junior Hurling Championships. In other grades it is part of Templemore Parish.

GORTHINAHOE

Fields teams in Junior Hurling Junior Football, Minor Hurling, Under 21's Hurling Competitions. No success in 1977.

CLONAKENNY

No success in 1977. The club affiliated teams in Junior Hurling and Football Competitions.

KNOCK

Knock entered the Division in 1975 as yet has annexed no title.

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Thomas McGrath Loughmore/Castleiney being presented with his award as Footballer of the Year in Mid Tipperary in 1976, by Chairman Tom O'Hara. The Citation reads:

"For his dedication and consistently good play at various levels for both club and county which played such a big part in his native parish Loughmore/Castleiney's many successes this year, the award 'Footballer of the Year' went to Tom McGrath."



DEFEATED IN FIRST ROUND, YET WON THE ALL-IRELAND TITLE

This is a story of a Co team who were defeated in the first round of the Munster Championship yet won the All Ireland without taking part in the Final.

The Tipperary Co Minor Football team was defeated by Clare in the first round of the 1934 Championship. Tipperary lodged an objection and the Munster Council awarded the game to Tipperary.

Tipp then met Kerry in the Munster Final and after a drawn game they won the replay. They then defeated Mayo in All Ireland Semi-Final. The two teams in the other semi-final were both disqualified by Central Council and Tipperary were declared All Ireland Champions.



THURLES, KICKHAMS

Teams in Junior Hurling, Football, Minor Hurling, Minor Football and under 21's Hurling.

THURLES, FENNELLEYS

Teams in Junior Hurling and Football. No success in 1977.

DROM/INCH

Teams in Senior Hurling, Junior Hurling, Under 21 and Minor Hurling, Senior Football.

With the Centenary Year of the Association only a few years away — the Division holds a proud place in the height of the Association — here just one hundred years ago the founders chose this spot to found its great Association — a proud inheritance indeed.

MID-TIPPERARY FINAL REFEREES

1977

Senior Hurling — Willie Carroll
Minor Hurling — Sean McGrath
Minor Football — Joe McNamara
N1 Junior Hurling — Sean Ryan
N2 Junior Hurling — Donal O'Gorman

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Chairman Thomas O'Hara
Gorthnahoe
Secretary Liam Ryan
Holycross
Treasurer Tim Maher
Boherlahan

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Philip O'Dwyer Boherlahan/
Duella, Gerry McEntee
Thurles/Sarsfields, Harry
Ryan Moycarkey/Borris.
Paddy McLoughlin Temple-
more/Eireog.

MUNSTER COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Jackie Ryan Upperchurch/
Drombane

COUNTY YOUTH OFFICER

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MINOR FOOTBALL BOARD AFFAIRS

THE YEAR 1977, PROVED TO BE YET ANOTHER DISAPPOINTING YEAR FOR THE MINOR AND U.21 FOOTBALL TEAMS, AS BOTH MADE THEIR EXIT FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE EARLIEST STAGE.

THE U.21's

When the 5 selectors were known, in late March, they got to work in preparing the team. Following a poorly attended trial, a panel was selected. The team then played Cork, in a challenge game, in Cork. The result, 9pts each, gave good hope for the future.

The first round of the Munster Championship, was played in Tipperary Town on Sunday, April 17th, against old rivals Clare. Three goals at vital stages killed Tipp's hopes.

However, such players as Paudie O'Neill, Tom McGrath, Benny Conway, Eamonn McCarthy, P. McCormack,

did their county proud. The Team that did their duty that day was:—

K. O'Connor, (Innane Rvs.); E. McCarthy, (Galtee Rvs); M. Meagher, (Loughmore); E. Doherty, (Templemore); A. McDonagh, (Commercials); P. McCormack, (Arravale Rvs.); P. O'Neill, (Commercials); P. Ryan, (Lattin); T. Flatley, (Templemore); G. McGrath, (Moyle Rvs.); T. McGrath, (Loughmore) Capt., M. McCarthy (Galtee Rvs.), T. Walsh, (Commercials); B. Conway, (Fr. Sheehys), M. Walsh, (Loughmore).

Sub.: E. Brennan, (Loughmore) for A. McDonagh.

A. Buckley (Lattin) for P. Ryan.

THE MINORS

Following a series of divisional games, a final trial was played in Cashel, with a large number of players present. A panel then went into training, sessions being held in Bansha, Cashel and Boherlahan. All were well attended. The game with Limerick was played in Limerick on 4th May.

The selected centre-half back was unable to play and the loss of the full-back after five minutes, unsettled the whole defence. The team was eventually beaten by a very good Limerick team, who later proved their worth in running Kerry to 1pt.

However, with many of the panel available next year and given the opportunity of a lengthy preparation, the team could give a good account of itself. The team that played in Limerick was:

S. Hubbard, (Cahir); W. Crowe, (Arravale Rvs.); S. Carney, (Aherlow); P. Brennan, (Loughmore); S. Queally, (Roscrea); M. Leahy, (Lattin); B. Hennessy, (Cappa-white), E. Brennan, Loughmore, Capt. P. McGrath, (Loughmore); T. Fitzpatrick, (Newcastle); Cyril Murphy, (Commercials); J. Carroll, (Ballyporeen); D. Cahill, (Ballyporeen); D. Connolly, (Emly); P. Dillon, (Fethard).

Subs.: S. Hennessy for Carney (inj.). S. O'Keefe for Queally.

COACHING COURSE:

A very successful coaching course was held in Clonmel G.A.A. Centre and Sportsfield, on September 16th & 17th. It was attended by club representatives from South and West, but sadly nobody from the North and Mid attended. Schools from South



Some of those who attended the Coaching Course at Clonmel. Included in Back Row: Tony Regan, John Tobin, Pat Spillane, coaches.

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and West, were also represented.

The course was given by Pat Spillane, (Kerry); John Tobin, (Galway); and Tony Regan, (Roscommon). As well as being accomplished footballers, (all three played for their provinces), both Pat Spillane and John Tobin are graduates of the P.E. College in Limerick. While Tony Regan, also a P.E. graduate, is director of P.E. in University College Galway.

All three emphasised the importance of teaching under-age players the basic skills and on the Saturday they demonstrated how these

can be taught in a competitive and entertaining way.

Their whole approach to the game and the depth of their ideas, only highlighted how far behind we in Tipperary are when it comes to football.

All three are willing to visit any club to coach the under-age teams and this is an offer that should be availed of.

They also suggested —

1. that clubs should bring in well-known county players to talk to under-age players;
2. that films of top games should be shown to young players;

3. that juveniles should be taken to see top-class league games over the winter.

If those who attended the course, implement half the ideas given them, Tipp. football would indeed improve immensely.

The Board intends to hold another course next year and it is hoped that there will be an even greater attendance.

by
Colm
O'Flatharta

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TIPPERARY SENIOR FOOTBALL HAPPENINGS

by
**JOHN
Mc NAMARA**

We opened our 1976/77 League campaign with a great victory over Laois at Clogheen. However Offaly proved too strong for us in Tullamore. In our game against Clare at Emly it was essential that we win to remain in the League, but we wasted too many chances and were narrowly beaten. Our remaining game against Limerick at Limerick was as a result futile, for the record we won.

Inter Divisional trials were held early in the year and the Mid-Division were victorious over the South in the Final. The panel to go into training for the Championship was selected after these trials. Challenge games were played against our own County Under 21 team and also

against Clare, Waterford and Cork before meeting Limerick in the first round of the Championship. We won very easily.

Clare and Cork provided the opposition for further challenges before we faced Kerry in Tralee. Although we came home losers the

team put up a terrific display. The approach work was very good but our finishing left a lot to be desired. Furthermore this must have been the fittest team to represent us at this level for quite a number of years. Our thanks is due to John Phelan, Trainer, for his wonderful effort.

Our final outing before 1977/78 League commenced was in the All-Ireland 7-a-side in Dublin. We beat Westmeath but were beaten by Longford and failed to win our own group.

On the home front Galtee Ravens (holders) and Loughmore have come through to the final and this promises to be a thriller between two great football areas.

A decision to revert back to five selectors was taken and the following were appointed.

W. Robinson (Kilshedan)
W. O'Reilly (Innane Rovers Roscrea.
S. McManus (Errhy)
J. Kennedy (Templemore)
J. Phelan (Ardsfinnan) who is also the Coach/Trainer of the Panel.

Let's hope that these men will achieve a revival of County Football. To do this they must get a hundred per cent effort from all those selected on the panel. Furthermore it would be a tremendous help if they could get the co-operation of all Clubs in the County in their search for new talent and in impressing on all our young footballers that to wear the Blue and Gold of Tipperary is a high honour.

Here's hoping that the breakthrough so many football followers in the County are looking forward to comes our way in the very near future.



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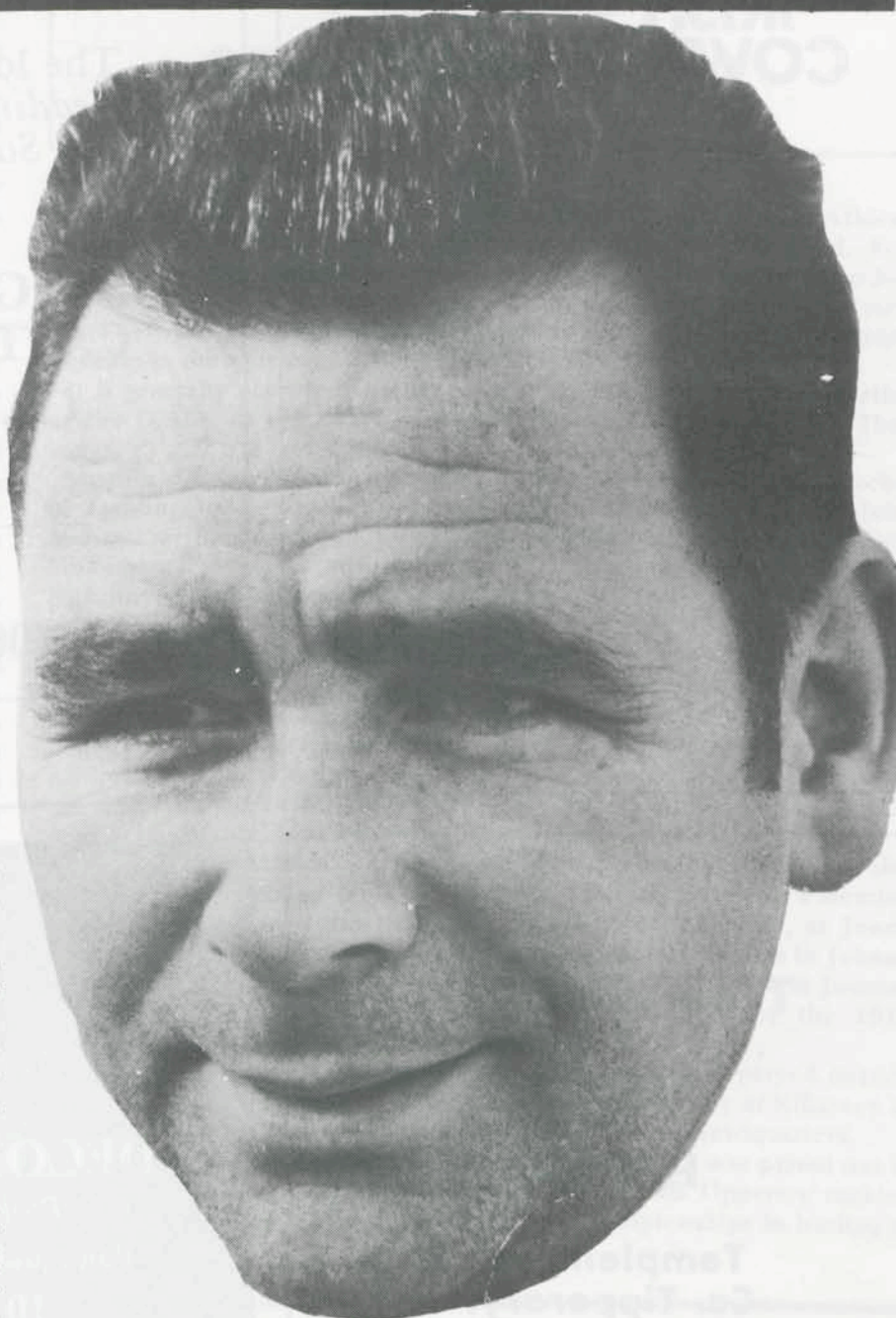
JIMMY DOYLE *(Tipperary)*

Jimmy Doyle gave so much to hurling — great games, magical touches, wonderful goals and points. He played chiefly during a period when the pressures greatly increased year after year on the players — the busy and demanding 'Sixties, a decade that also saw the annual calendar not only grow steadily with every passing year, but the competitive element outside the always fiercely contested championship become keener and keener.

Yet, although his career was dogged by injuries, Doyle still proved by far hurling's busiest campaigner of that busy and exciting era. I have a special regard for him as well, because, as I introduced these scoring charts to Gaelic sports journalism in 1955, Jimmy Doyle was there consistently during the early formative seasons, and he did so much to set a pattern for me in many a field.

His sharp finishing edge had him consistently to the forefront. He was the first Munster man to lead the way nationally in a championship line-up in 1958, and between 1960 and 1962 carved out another unique chapter in the annals of the table with a first three in a row run by any hurler or footballer on top of the table in championship play.

Jimmy was the man who set the standard as well in my first National League table in hurling in the 1964-65 season, with a tally of 63 points (7-42) from eight games.



In the full annual charts, the Tipperary forward was one of the most regular among the top men. In fact, from 1959 to 1965, without a single break, he was the only hurler at that time to appear in the top three scorers each year for the full annual programme of games.

He had his first century of points in 1960, the year he also led the way in hurling for the

first time, was joint leader with Christy Ring in 1962, and was back on his own in the premier place in the chart in 1964, after sharing the lead spot with Eddie Keher in 1963.

In 1966 and 1967, Jimmy did not appear among the top five each year, but was back in the line-up at No. 5 in 1968. A year later he had his greatest scoring year of them all.

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In finishing ahead of the field that year with 124 points (11-91) from 17 games, he hit a score that still stands as the Tipperary and Munster record.

In addition, he became the first Munster man to dominate outright the hurling and football tables on the All-Ireland scene in the same year. He and Eddie Keher were joint leaders for both Codes in 1963.

His last appearance in the top line up was in 1970 at No. 4, so all in all, he was by far the most consistent sharpshooter in either code over the period 1958 to 1970 — a wonderful career of punching home the goals and points in spectacular and exciting fashion. In all, he passed out the magical century barrier over five separate seasons.

When Jimmy Doyle finally bowed out of big-time hurling, he had chalked up 116 goals and 906 points (1,254 points) from 190 games, excluding some outings he made as a goalkeeper when he made a brief come-back to the big time in 1973, after having retired some years earlier. That works out at the splendid average of 6.60 points a match — highly impressive sharpshooting over a long period.

Naturally enough the Tipperary forward had many outstanding matches scorewise, and it is not easy to put one above the other. But I remember, in particular, an exciting and pulse-raising display in the 1959-60 National League final with Cork at the then Cork Athletic Grounds.

It was not that the game produced a spectacular scoring barrage as such from Jimmy Doyle, although he did finish up with a very creditable 0-9. No, I remember the way that he came back in the second half after a brief incident that could have had an unsettling effect.

That came near to half time when Doyle, who had some moments earlier had a free which he shot low for a goal, cleared, completely missed from a close-in free off the ground after failing

Tipperary's special place

Tipperary holds a special place in the annals of the Gaelic Athletic Association as the county where the movement was launched. But, long before the organisation was established in Thurles on Saturday, November 1, 1884, hurling was popular in the county, and in the early years of the infant association, football also commanded a strong position in the sporting life of the county.

It is generally accepted that seven men attended the inaugural meeting of the G.A.A. in the billiard room of Hayes's Hotel, in Thurles. They were:

Maurice Davin, of Carrick-on-Suir, a farmer; Michael Cusack, a teacher in Dublin; John Wyse Power, a Fenian journalist from Naas; John McKay, a journalist in Cork; John K. Bracken, of Templemore, Monumental Sculptor and Builder; P.J. Ryan, Solicitor of Callan, Co. Kilkenny, and St. George McCarthy, a District Inspector of the R.I.C. in Templemore.

Davin, one of the great athletes of his day, was chosen the first President. The first Patrons were Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, Charles Stewart Parnell, M.P., and Michael Davitt, M.P.

Apart from the fact that Thurles, led by Jim Stapleton, won the first All-Ireland senior hurling championship, that of 1887, the county is the only one to twice complete the All-Ireland senior double of title wins in hurling and football for the same season (1895 and 1900).

And, how about this for a long-serving medals record? Denis Walsh first won an All-Ireland senior hurling medal in March 1896 as a member of the Tubberadora team that beat Tullaroan, of Kilkenny, at Jones' Road in the 1895 final. Close on twenty one years later he was in Johnny Leahy's famed Boherlahan's squad that won the hurling title in January 1917, again at the expense of Tullaroan. That was for the 1916 championship.

Tipperary won the only All-Ireland senior hurling final played outside of Croke Park in modern times when they beat Kilkenny at Killarney in 1937 (the Cusack Stand was then being constructed at headquarters).

Another important milestone in the county's history was passed out in 1965 with a final triumph over Wexford that earned Tipperary ranking as the first winners of 21 All-Ireland senior championships in hurling or football.

to lift the ball.

However, far from unsettling the Tipperary star, he resumed after the interval to produce that splendid second half show, highlighted by the scoring of six capital points. The fact that the memory of the Doyle performance burns so brightly down the years enhances the quality of the exercise because Jimmy Doyle had to compete in that game with

a high quality showing from the great Christy Ring, who franked a brilliant display by shooting 3-4.

Jimmy Doyle had his best scoring outings in a match against Wexford in a challenge at Thurles in the early days of his senior career in 1958, and again at Thurles in 1960 in an Oireachtas Cup semi-final with Kilkenny. He notched 2-10 in each tie.

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The year 1977 will be remembered as the most successful ever in the history of Kilruane MacDonagh. For this was the year in which Kilruane entered the proud history of Tipperary by winning its first County Championship and bringing to the Parish of Coughjordan the historic Dan Breen Cup.

Many years of dedication to juvenile teams and outstanding determination in 1977 by all the players, had at long last been borne out.

On a wet and windy Sunday last April Kilruane were beaten by Borrisoleigh in Nenagh in the early stages of the North Tipperary Championship. This was a defeat which made up the minds of both players, mentors that "Kilruane men will be back". And, so with victories over Lorrha (1976 finalists) — North) Moneygill (1975 and 1976 County Champions Newport, Toomevara (Grey Lourobs), we once again faced Borrisoleigh in the North Final. Borrisoleigh were backed by Mick Coen Noel and Tom O'Dwyer, Flavery Ryan, Brendan Kenny of our 1976 Tipperary Senior Hurling Final).

This was a great day's hurling in North Tipperary and with our team extremely fit, thanks to work of Len Gaynor (Trainer and Coach) we just shaded Borrisoleigh in the last few minutes bringing back once again the Frank McGrath Cup.

And so we met Carrick Swan and then on to Sean Treacy for the semi-final and here to West Tipp. representatives, trained by David Nealon gave us a close call McLevine saw us through to meet for the third time in 1977 — Borrisoleigh. This match is now history.

A game which ended in a draw but in doing so gave back to Tipperary hurling the splendour that had been missing for so long.

And so as October 23rd we again stepped out at Semple Stadium but on a day which the rain and the wind were present for the full hour. Not a classical as on the first occasion but nevertheless a great game, which at the end saw us victors by a slender margin of three points.

So at last our life long

KILRUANE M^{ac}DONAGH

Senior Hurling Champions 1977

BY JIM KIRBY

Secretary — Kilruane MacDonagh G.A.A.

ambition had been won men like Len Gaynor, Sean Hyland, Ian Langley, saw life long dreams come through.

This present Kilruane team have a blend of age unsurpassing and a proud tradition of hurling. Several members of the team being links with the Old Lalonna De Wetts.

The Williams Brothers, Denis and Jim O'Meara grand-nephews of Jack Dwan, Len Gaynor a grand nephew of Mike Gaynor.

The team 1977 saw in January an U.21 Hurling team obtain the U.21 County Hurling title for the fourth successive year and

also in January saw us win the U.21 Football title. Our under 12 hurling were defeated in the North Tipperary Final and the under 14 Hurlers were closely defeated also in North Final.

Our Scor Senior Question Time team came securely in the Minor final and out Junior hurlers were defeated in the semi-final, presently we are once again for the sixth successive final chasing a sixth under 21 Hurling Division title and are also in the U.21 Football Final.

But the club energy is not directed entirely to games and this October we were presented with an award by

Shannonside (Bord Failte) for the best Community Hall. This Hall being our Club Centre "Fr. Niall O'Meara Memorial Centre" which was purchased and renovated in 1975 at a cost of £10,000 and dedicated to the memory of the late Fr. Niall O'Meara, from Carriganagh, Ardcroney.

And now to the Munster Club Championship. As Tipperary's ambassadors we are proud to be in this position. We thank all concerned with our great team to date and we wish that an upsurge in Tipperary hurling will place the blue and gold of Tipperary once again at the top.



The Kilruane MacDonagh U-21 teams who won the 1977 championship.



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TWO DAYS HISTORY STOOD STILL

A share with the legendary Christy Ring in an outstanding high-point in All-Ireland senior championship hurling, and a place all his own in National League fare that is a double feature of the career of wholehearted John Doyle, one of the most dependable hurlers Tipperary has produced.



John
Doyle
... on the
Alert

The careers of Doyle and Ring are intertwined in special ways, and in each instance an All-Ireland hurling final was given an extra special dimension.

Take the 1956 Cork-Wexford decider. Ring led the Leesiders to their 1954 hurling final win over a gallant Wexford team, and became the first man to win eight All-Ireland senior medals in hurling or football. His earlier medal wins were in 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1952 and 1953.

Cork challenged Wexford, who had won their first title in 45 years in 1955, for the 1956 national championship. With just three minutes remaining in that game, the Slaneysiders were two points clear.

Then, Christy Ring and Art Foley combined to produce one of the classic and memorable moments of sport.

The Cork ace, following a brilliant burst, sent a tremendous shot from 25 yards that had "goal" written all over it. Foley, however, proved equal to the occasion, bringing off a magnificent save, one that to this day is still regarded as probably the best of all time by any goalkeeper.

And, when the Wexford No. 1 brought off that save he ended Ring's hopes of a ninth medal. A Wexford goal and point followed to clinch a truly famous win for the Slaneysiders — 2-14 to 2-8.

Although the Cork artist continued to play in top class hurling with the county and the province for a further seven years or so, the 1956 game proved his last outing in an All-Ireland senior final.

When Ring's bid for that elusive ninth medal was foiled, John Doyle had three All-Ireland senior hurling souvenirs to his credit. He gained those in 1949, 1950 and 1951.

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PHONE: BALLINGARRY 34.

The solid working and so dependable Tipperary hurler boosted his tally to four in 1958.

Then, a splendid run that saw Tipperary take the championship in 1961, 1962, 1964 and 1965 left John Doyle equal with Christy Ring in the All-Ireland medals tally.

It was Cork against Kilkenny for the 1966 national title, but Tipperary were back in the All-Ireland final picture the following September. When they lined up against Kilkenny with Doyle at right-full-back, it was an important factor in their favour that starting that game one had to go back as far as the 1922 All-Ireland final — played in 1923 — for the last win by a Noreside team over Tipperary in the championship in the premier grade.

Kilkenny trailed by six points at the interval of that 1967 game, but they came back strongly in the second half, and at the final whistle had carved out a rare joy day on a 3-8 to 2-7 score-line.

So, Doyle was foiled of a unique place all his own in the annals of senior championship fare, and as was the case of Ring, his unsuccessful bid for the elusive ninth proved his last outing in the senior decider.

And, that place all his own in the National League? Well, during his long reign on the county senior team, Tipperary were undoubtedly the specialists of National League hurling.

He won his first medal in 1948-49, and went on to gain ten more. His total is not only a record for the competition, but just two short of the Tipperary tally of League titles overall!

John Doyle's big seasons were 1948-49, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1956-57, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1963-64, 1964-65.

The Holycross club man played in a variety of positions with Tipperary in senior hurling. He was at left-full-back in his All-Ireland medal wins of 1949, 1950 and 1951, No. 7 in the 1958 final and the 1961 decider, and wore the No. 2 jerseys in the subsequent appearances in the show-piece game.

Over the years, too, he gave sterling service to Munster in Railway Cup fare, and collected five medals. He won his first at left-full, in 1952 was full-back in the 1953 title winning Southern XV, was back at left-full in 1955, won medal No. 4 at left-half in 1960, and completed the list where he began at left-full in 1963.

MOST MINOR APPEARANCES

Player with the most All-Ireland Minor Championship final appearances to his credit is Jimmy Doyle, of Thurles Sarsfields. In 1954 he was goalkeeper in the Tipperary team that lost to Dublin.

A year later at right-half-forward he was a star in his county's win over Galway, and in 1956 at right-half-forward collected another medal at the expense of Kilkenny. Jimmy Doyle won his third All-Ireland minor hurling medal in 1957 as left-half-forward in the side that had another success against Kilkenny.

Jimmy was also captain of the 1957 minor team, and one of his team-mates that season was his brother, Paddy, who filled the right-full-forward position in the All-Ireland final team.

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TONY WALL

Many rate Tony Wall as the greatest centre-half-back of all time in hurling. Certainly in a wonderful career he proved himself as an outstanding master in that position, and featured his record in the role with an extra special double in 1958.

That year the Thurles Sarsfields man led Tipperary back into the All-Ireland senior hurling championship winners list after an interval of seven seasons. Some months after the final win over Galway for the county's 17th crown, he was chosen as the first winner of the Caltex (now Texaco) award for the Hurler of the Year.

Yet, as is so often the case with players who make an outstanding impression in one position, Wall did not start his senior inter-county career as a pivot.

A brilliant Colleges and minor inter-county player, he was called up to the senior team in March 1953 as centre-half-forward. He filled a number of other positions with the county, including left-half-back, and then in 1957 stepped into the pivotal role on the retirement of Pat Stakelum, another of the County's famed hulling sons.

From there he went on to follow that double triumph of 1958 by winning further All-Ireland senior medals in the position in 1961,

One of the
greatest
centre-half
backs of
all times!

1962, 1964, 1965, as well as National League and Railway Cup souvenirs. His last All-Ireland senior final outing was, again at centre-half, in 1967, when a Kilkenny win foiled John Doyle of a record-winning ninth senior medal.

Tadhg O'Connor is another man with a place apart in Tipperary hurling. He was the first from Roscrea to lead a county senior hurling team in an All-Ireland final in 1971, and then as a result of the win over Kilkenny became the North Tipperary town's first



TONY WALL started on the inter-county team at centre-half-forward.

national championship winning captain.

Not surprisingly he was a vital unit later that year in two famous firsts — as right-half-back in the first Carrolls All Stars hurling selection, and an ace defender in the Roscrea side that won the official All-Ireland club championship final.

Even before that, however, he had got among the All-Ireland medals as centre-half-back in the under-21 side that beat Dublin in the 1967 final. He made his senior inter-county debut in 1968.

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